

Oxford Baptist Church – January 8 – Robin W. Pifer
Communion – "Understanding the Lord's Supper"
Matt 26:26-30; Luke 14:15-24; 1Cor 11:23-29; Exod 12:1-11

Big Idea: Jesus offered himself so that we have life and forgiveness. We remember and celebrate this reality when we take Communion—what some churches call the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist. Believers drink wine or juice and eat bread together. In this meal, we refocus on our relationship with Jesus and one another.

Introduction

- a) In Communion, we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us – *1 Cor 11:23-25*
- b) In Communion, we slow down to examine ourselves – *1 Cor 11:28*
 - We confess our sins, we ask God to forgive us, and we reconcile with one another
- c) In Communion, we declare that Jesus is coming back – *1 Cor 11:26*
- d) In Communion, we bring our sins, fear and weakness to Jesus - *Ps 34:8*

1. Divine Participants in Communion

- a) Communion with the Father - *1 John 1:3 (Fellowship)*
- b) Communion with the Son - *1 Cor 1:9; 1 John 1:3; Rev 3:20*
- c) Communion with the Spirit – *2 Cor 13:14; Phil 2:1-2*
- d) Fellowship and Communion with one another. - *1 John 1:7*

2. Means of Communion

- a) Communion through the Lord's Supper – *1 Cor 10:16-17*
- b) Communion through Meditation/Word of God. - *Ps. 19:14; Ps. 63:6-8; Ps. 139:17-18*
- c) Communion through Prayer - *Ps. 42:8; Phil. 4:6-8; Heb 4:14-16*
- d) Communion through Worship - *Ps. 63:1-5*

3. Prerequisites of Communion

- a) Holiness Is a Prerequisite of Communion - *2 Cor 6:14-18; 7:1*
- b) Love and Obedience Are Prerequisites of Communion - *John 14:6, 15-21, 23; 1 John 3:24*
- c) Reconciliation Is a Prerequisite of Communion - *Amos 3:3; 1 John 1:6-7*

4. Results of Communion

- a) Communion Imparts the Peace of God - *Phil 4:6-7*
- b) Communion Produces Christ-likeness - *Phil. 3:10-11*
- c) Communion Produces the Desire for More Communion - *Ps 16:8; Ps 42:1-11; Phil 1:23-24*
- d) Communion Provides Divine Assistance in Times of Need - *Heb. 4:16*
- e) Communion Unites One with Other Believers - *1 Cor 12:13; Phil 2:1-2*

4. Results of Communion

- a) Enoch Communed with God - *Gen 5:22-24*
- b) Noah Communed with God - *Gen 6:9*
- c) Moses Communed with God - *Exod. 33:9, 11-23*
- d) Jesus Communed with the Father - *John 17:20-26*

Application

- Reflect on the key passages on Communion and answer these questions. *Matt 26:26-30; Lk 14:15-24; 1 Cor 11:23-29*
 - What did you learn about Communion/Lord's Table today?
 - Why do you think Communion or the Lord's table is important?
 - In what ways does the Passover meal point to Communion with Jesus Christ?
 - Why is it vital for us to examine ourselves before participating in the communion service?