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Holy Communion - From Christ's Cross to Christ's Crown



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #213 ~

Every Christian is to take communion, to take the bread and cup on a regular basis. And why? God commands you to, for He knows how vitally important it is for your relationship with Him. At its core, Christianity is about God's love for you, and consistently observing communion helps you know this love, and also fuels and fires your love for Him. 1 John 4:19

When we have communion, we are looking back and remembering that Jesus Christ died on the cross, His saving death being a demonstration of His love for us (Rom. 5:8). But we are also looking ahead and thinking about being with Christ in the kingdom ages and, specifically, at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9), when as Christ's Bride, we will be with Him and freshly experience His love for us. Taking communion helps us to not only remember the past,

but to look forward to the future, with the result that we are renewed by His love in the present. In this post we will look at communion from the past to the present to the future, from Christ's cross to Christ's crown.

1) Luke 22:14-20 (past). It was the last supper, Jesus' final meal with His disciples before He suffered and died on the cross for us. We also know this as the first Lord's supper, that time when Jesus transformed the last Passover meal into the first communion meal. Christ was signaling the end of the Old Covenant with the holy place, priesthood, and sacrifices, and the beginning of the New Covenant, which was accomplished by His death, the shedding of His blood on the cross for us, the means by which our sins would finally and forever be forgiven.

The church age was soon to begin, and Jesus Christ was instituting communion for the church, and for every Christian in the church, and not as a ritual to be repeated, but as a time to intimately remember Him. We all know how easily we forget things, but you never want to forget Christ and what He did for you on the cross. God knows you need to regularly be reminded of His love for you, of Christ's death for you, by which all your sins are forgiven – and taking communion with other Christians is one of the best ways to do this.

Note what Jesus said, *"I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God"* (Luke 22:16). Jesus was looking ahead to when all the people to be saved would be saved, when the church age would be over, when all believers would be together during the millennial kingdom age. He was vowing to not take the bread and cup until His work in building the church was complete, at which time He and His Bride would have their first meal together at this special marriage supper. For emphasis, Jesus says it again, *"I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes"* (Luke 22:18). It's so encouraging to see Jesus' loving heart, His passionate desire to be with us. As Jesus is excited about seeing us, might we be excited about seeing Him and being with all the believers. Without a doubt, it will be

the greatest, grandest, most glorious wedding reception this world has ever seen.

2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (present). The command for Christians to take communion is stated again. God is stressing this point because it's what every Christian in every church in the entire world needs to be doing. Having communion is to be a continual constant in the lives of Christians during this church age. Paul reminds us what Jesus said, *"This is My body, which is for you"* (1 Cor. 11:24). I cannot overstate the significance of this verse, for Jesus gave His body which means He gave His entire life *"for you",* and His life was perfect, and therefore would be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus loved you so much, shown in that He gave His life for you, the innocent One substituting His life for the guilty ones, and all to make you holy and perfect forever (Heb. 10:14). This divine, spiritual exchange is the heart of the gospel, the most important transaction, the most wonderful news in the world, that Jesus took your sins, and gave you His life. *"Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God."* 1 Peter 3:18

Again, we read Jesus' words, *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you do this, in remembrance of Me"* (1 Cor. 11:25). The Jews who were celebrating the Passover were to realize that the lamb's blood which had been smeared on doorposts allowing their forefather's escape from Egypt had been pointing to, and was now replaced by, the Lamb's blood, which enabled them and all believers in Christ to eternally escape sin and death. The cup that represented the lamb's blood was now representing Christ's blood. Indeed, this new covenant is God's sure promise to us that Christ could and would save us, for *"without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."* Hebrew 9:22

"As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26).Taking communion means we are not just looking back but looking forward – and we are to keep proclaiming Christ's death which was in the past, His victory over sin

and death, *“until He comes”,* which is in the future. Truly observing communion means having faith in what Christ did for you on the cross, and hope for what He will do for you in the coming Kingdom. And this faith and hope produces a real and present love in your heart for your most amazing and gracious Savior.

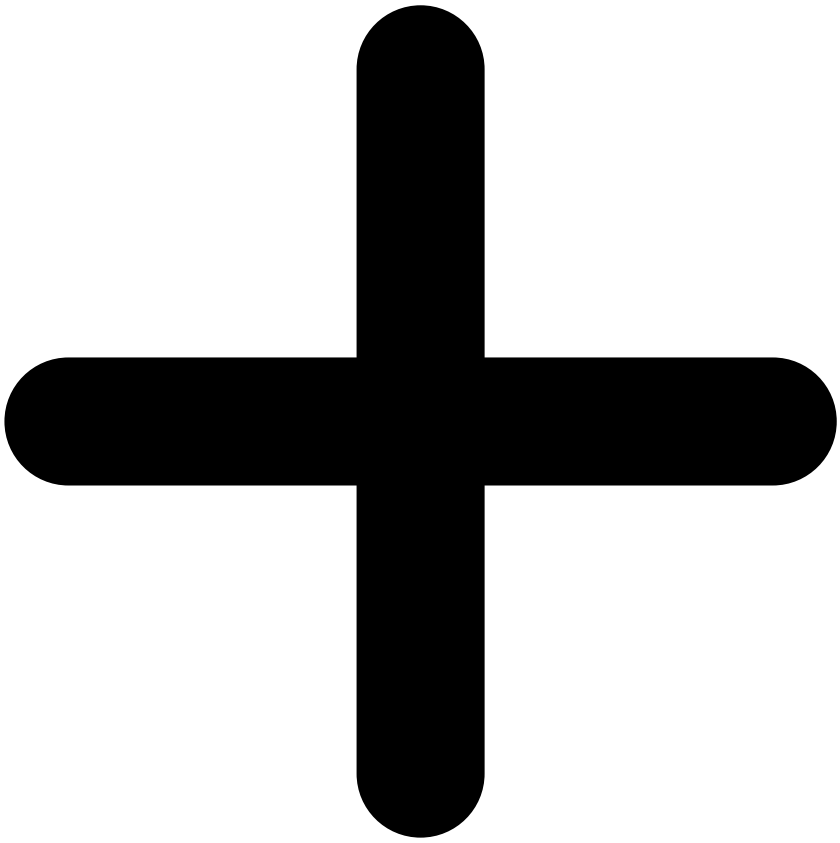
What Paul said about proclaiming *“the Lord’s death until He comes”* (1 Cor. 11:26), reminds us what Jesus said about how He would not be drinking the fruit of the vine *“until the kingdom of God comes.”* (Luke 22:18). Just as Jesus was thinking about the future, of that time when He would be with us, might we also be thinking of the future, of that time when we will be with Him. From the day of Pentecost and the start of the church until the signs in the heavens and the end of this age, Christians are to be taking communion, remembering and loving the Lord, and looking forward to seeing Him face to face and being with Him forever.

3) Revelation 11:15 (the future) – *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever.”* Jesus Christ told us that the kingdom of God would be coming (Luke 22:18), and it’s at the very start of this kingdom that all believers will be together with Him at the *“marriage supper of the Lamb”* (Rev. 19:9), this most holy wedding reception, the greatest banquet ever – and Christ will be at the head table, hosting this glorious and magnificent occasion.

Finally, Jesus Christ breaks His fast, for He told us at the last supper, at the first communion, *“I shall never again eat it until is fulfilled in the kingdom of God”* (Luke 22:16). Christ has been waiting for close to 2000 years for this time when we, His Bride, celebrate our divine and eternal marriage with Him. Now that we are in the end-times, it won’t be long before all believers will be with Christ having sweet fellowship with Him, and the most wonderful meal.

The purpose of this post is to help you more clearly understand the importance of taking communion. Remember, it's a faith event, for you are to be believing, to be remembering what Christ did for you in the past when He died on the cross. It's a hope event, for you are to be looking ahead and thinking about what God has planned for you in the future, that you will be with Jesus during the kingdom age, and specifically that you will be with Him and all the believers at the *"marriage supper of the Lamb,"* the first of many meals with your Lord and Savior. And it's also a holy event, for you are thinking about the most holy Christ and thanking Him for making you holy forever (Heb. 10:12-18). And again, it's a love event, for thinking about what Christ did for you in the past and what He will do for you in the future will fill your heart with love for Him in the present, and the desire and strength to keep living for Him until He comes. ***"'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20**

P.S. God wants us to keep taking communion during our time on earth to help us keep loving Him and living for Him. Never forget this, for you don't want to lose your first love for Him. Here are two more posts about your love for the Lord in these days: "The Rapture, A Love Story", and "Loving the Lord and Longing to See Him."



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