



August 7, 2016  
Celebration · 9:00 am  
Elevation · 11:00 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

## Communion: Experiencing it More Fully

### Understand Jesus' teaching on communion:

Jesus changed the focus of the Passover from Israel's past redemption from Egypt by the sacrifice of a lamb to our present and future salvation from sin by His own sacrifice. Matthew 26:26-30; Exodus 12

- Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and said this bread now symbolizes His body rather than Israel's deliverance from Egypt.
- Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, (eucharist) and declared it a "new covenant" (Luke 22:20) of our forgiveness in His blood rather than the old covenant of repeated sacrifices.  
Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; Hebrews 10:1-10

### Learn the Bible's specific instruction for participating in communion. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- First, we must correct any errors regarding communion in the church. 1 Corinthians 11:17-22
  - In practice: Sinful divisions, selfishness, pride around the communion meal
  - In theology: Transubstantiation, Consubstantiation
- Second, focus on Christ in three areas:
  - **Past:** Our union with Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 "*in remembrance of Me.*"  
How and when did you first believe in Jesus for your forgiveness of sins?
  - **Future:** Our reunion with Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:26 "*you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*"  
| John 2:28-3:3; Matthew 26:29; Hebrews 9:28
  - **Present:** Our communion with Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:27-34  
"*Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*"

Unworthy =

## Digging Deeper:

Wearing a wedding ring is a constant reminder that we are married. Likewise, Jesus has called for at least two symbolic events to remind us that we believe and follow Him. Baptism and communion are those two testimonies of our faith in Christ. This morning, we focus on communion.

Jesus was the first to practice communion, and it was not just a coincidence that communion began during Passover. In Matthew 26:2, Jesus acknowledged the Passover. Then in Matthew 26:26, during the Passover feast, Jesus changed the meaning of the bread and cup so they focused on His life and sacrifice for our sins.

At the Passover feast Jesus called His sacrifice a “new covenant” in Luke 22:20.

Read the following passages from the Old Testament and reflect on how we can participate in that new covenant today: Jeremiah 31:31-37; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Ezekiel 36:36-38.

How should you live your life based on these scriptures?

The Passover and Unleavened feasts are described in Exodus 12 as the Jews are delivered from the bondage of Egypt. They are often considered one feast. The unleavened bread is used to remember the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. The blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from death as the angel of death passed over them. Jesus now uses that unleavened bread to symbolize His body and the cup to symbolize His blood as a once for all sacrifice for our sins. We no longer need many sacrifices since His death, burial and resurrection is sufficient for our forgiveness. Hebrews 10, written to Jews who may have been sliding back into the old covenant practices, teaches us the importance of Christ’s sacrifice today. This is a difficult book but rich in meaning, revealing the importance of Christ’s sacrifice or “new covenant” compared to the old covenant of Moses’ day.

There are two errant views of communion today:

1. **Transubstantiation:** This view is primarily in the Roman Catholic Church. They believe the bread and wine actually change into -“*trans*” - a new substance which is the body and blood of Christ. While we respect the sacredness of their communion service, the elements of communion do not change, but rather memorialize Jesus’ sacrifice.
2. **Consubstantiation.** Martin Luther, a former Roman Catholic priest, broke from the church and developed this view that Christ is spiritually “with, in and under” the bread and cup. The word “*con*” means “*with*” so that Christ’s spiritual substance is present in those elements. Jesus calls for us to remember His death for us, but never taught us that He is uniquely spiritually present in any inanimate object. Rather, He lives in each of us spiritually.

We must treat communion as a sacred moment where we declare our communion with a holy God. We cannot achieve such holiness in our own efforts; it is only given to us by faith in Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. As we take communion, please come to Christ first to examine yourself to be fully prepared to declare your communion with Jesus. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 1:14-19. What do you learn about the blood of Christ and how we should live?

## Next Steps:

1. **Join the church family as we follow Jesus together.** The next membership process is at the Discover Calvary class on today, August 7 from 12:30-4:00 pm in Fireside Room. We’ll talk about how God designed His church to function, Calvary’s history and beliefs, and go on a behind-the-scenes tour to learn about Calvary’s many ministries. Find out more at [calvarylife.org/discover](http://calvarylife.org/discover)
2. **Take a next step as a follower of Jesus.** Have you trusted in Jesus but never been baptized? One of the last words from Jesus was for each believer to be baptized as an outward expression of their faith. To learn more about baptism, come to the Baptism Class on August 14 or 21 at 9:00 am or 11:00 am in the Worship Center Prayer Room. Discover more at [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)
3. **Help show the light of Jesus to others at Fill the Bus.** On Sunday, August 14 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, bring school supplies and backpacks, and together we will fill a school bus with items to donate to local low-income Santa Ana elementary students and to our global partners Acres of Love Orphanage in South Africa and students at Victory School in Albania. [calvarylife.org/bus](http://calvarylife.org/bus)



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