

Communion

Return Church

June 30, 2024

Communion - Fellowship

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ? ***I Corinthians 10:16 NKJV***

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **communion** of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen. ***II Corinthians 13:14 NKJV***

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and **fellowship**, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ***Acts 2:42 NKJV***

Fellowship

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have **fellowship** with us. And our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ***1 John 1:1-3 NLT***

koinōnía, koy-nohn-ee'-ah

Communion, fellowship, partnership, participation, or (social) intercourse, communicate, communication, distribution, association, community, participation, intimacy, a gift jointly contributed.

This is what we have been looking for all of our lives. Intimacy, to be loved, to be accepted, to be valued, to be satisfied, to be fulfilled, to be validated. It is all found in communion or fellowship with God.

My blood of the new covenant

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:26-28 NKJV

The only way communion with God is possible is through the broken body and the poured-out blood of Jesus Christ. Communion is not symbolic, it is radical. Our brokenness is healed by our communion with God through Jesus Christ.

Blood was shed for the remission of sins. We have a sin problem!

Old Testaments types and shadows

From Genesis to Malachi, the Old Testament is filled with types and shadows of Messiah that would come and save us from our sins.

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. ***Hebrews 9:22 NLT***

Blood had to be shed!

22,000 bulls – 120,000 sheep

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord. King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. ***II Chronicles 7:4-5 NKJV***

Isaiah 53 - Prophecy

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ***Isaiah 53:3-6 NKJV***

Written over 700 years before Jesus was born.

Behold the Lamb of God

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ***John 1:29 NKJV***”

Blessing – Brokenness - Giving

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, **blessed** and **broke** *it*, and **gave** *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ***Matthew 26:26-28 NKJV***

The communion, the intimacy, the union, the unity, the oneness, the wholeness, all we are looking for is found in the thanking, the breaking and the giving away.

Broken and giving

Since communion is found in brokenness and giving. Then why are we so afraid of being broken and so anxious about giving ourselves away?

Jesus was broken bread, poured out wine.

Paradoxes

- **To win, you must surrender.**
- **To live, you must die.**
- **To be the greatest, you must become the least**
- **If you want to be first, you must be last.**
- **If you want to rule, you must serve.**
- **If you want to be exalted, you must humble yourself.**
- **To find your life, you must lose your life.**
- **If you want to be strong, then become weak.**
- **To get a crown, you must carry a cross.**
- **To inherit the Kingdom of God, you must be poor in Spirit.**
- **To do what God has called you to do, you must be broken.**

Blessed – Broke- Gave

But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to Me.” Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He **blessed** and **broke** and **gave** the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. ***Matthew 14:16-21 NKJV***

Abundance

Thanksgiving, breaking and giving, precedes the miracle of abundance. When we thank God for not having enough then the miracle of multiplication comes with the breaking and giving.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. ***John 10:10 NKJV***

Abundance

All abundance comes from brokenness. He breaks us so we will be yielded and surrendered to Him and then we are to give ourselves away.

Until you learn to give you don't know the secret of how to live. Abundance comes with giving not keeping.

The miracle of abundance is in the thanking, the breaking and the giving away.

My body

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is **My body.**” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ***Matthew 26:26-28 NKJV***

The bread was broken. Jesus’s body was broken. Today’s church (the body of Christ), must be broken so it can minister to a broken world.

Brokenness

But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ***John 12:23-25 NKJV***

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise. ***Psalms 51:17 NKJV***

With the thanking and the breaking and the giving comes the abundance. This is the abundant life Jesus speaks of.

Remembrance

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me.” Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ***Luke 22:19-20 NKJV***

Anamnesis: ἀνάμνησις; recollection, remembrance, to call me affectionately to remembrance, To bring a past event to the present.

My testimony

To be sin for us

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ***II Corinthians 5:21 NIV***

Jesus told His disciples

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ***Matthew 16:21 NKJV***

Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful. ***Matthew 17:22-23 NKJV***

Jesus told His disciples

Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.” ***Matthew 20:17-19 NKJV***

Garden of Gethsemane

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "**My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.** Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*." ***Matthew 26:36-39***
NKJV

He had eaten the Passover meal, the weight of the sins of mankind were beginning to fall down upon Him. He was literally dying in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Garden of Gethsemane

Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." **Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.** And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. **Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.** When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." ***Luke 22:39-46 NKJV***

Jesus was broken

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. ***Matthew 27:27-31 NKJV***

Jesus was broken - Calvary

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ ” Having said this, He breathed His last. ***Luke 23:44-46 NKJV***

Jesus was broken - Calvary

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!” Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ***Matthew 27:45-51 NKJV***

Jesus was broken - Calvary

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished! "And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. ***John 19:28-30 NKJV***

God in flesh was broken bread and poured out wine.

Communion

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ***Luke 22:19-20 NKJV***

Jesus was broken bread and poured out wine.

You are invited to come to the table, and eat and drink of Him, come and fellowship with God, have communion with God, through the broken body and poured out blood of Jesus Christ.