



Origin

Hebrews 7:1-19; Genesis 14:14-23; Jeremiah 23:5-8; John 6:66-69

Communion was first shared between Melchizedek, the mysterious messianic archetype, and Abraham, the seminal covenant heir, amid a great battle for life and soul. This first glimpse into God's revelation of communion illuminates its eternal nature as well as its temporal implications. Similarly, Jesus, who knows no beginning or end, meets us amid the struggles of life to expose the

battle before us – to either surrender to Him for provision, deliverance, and promise or to align ourselves with the world's ethos. As we live the discipline of communion, the duration of each moment intersects (sometimes collides) with the eternal promise in Christ. Will you choose this world, or will you choose Christ?

Discipline

Exodus 12; John 13:1; Matthew 26:17 & 26-28; Philippians 3:8-9; John 14:6

Our observance of communion was established as a discipline during the feast of unleavened bread (or Passover) – the first and greatest of three annual Jewish feasts. It was in remembrance and honor of God's Salvation of His people from the Egyptians, specifically the last plague in which all the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed but the Israelites were spared through the blood of a lamb. As Jesus reclined with his disciples to observe the celebration of God's salvation for His people, He said to them, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Jesus was showing them that salvation from sin and restoration to God come not from ritual, but from His life, broken and poured out for all humanity – His life, perpetually lived out in and through us.

Continual

Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Exodus 13:1-8

The Passover Feast was immediately set up by God as a way to pass on from generation to generation the reality of His deliverance. This theme is continued in our observance of communion, as we persistently remember and proclaim our salvation in Christ Jesus. Jesus instructed his disciples that Passover night around the table, then later revealed His heart concerning communion to the Apostle Paul. This pattern shows the importance of continuing the discipline of communion – proclaiming in words and deeds the death, resurrection, and imminent return of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Remembrance & Commitment

Romans 5:8-10; Hebrews 10:19-25; Galatians 2:20

By design this is to be a reverent and joyous remembrance of God's provisionary grace for His creation – that through the death and life of Jesus Christ we are no longer alienated from Almighty God by our sin, but can, and must, draw near to Him in worship. This is a time to remember that as Christ died, so too our old lives died, and with His resurrection, He now lives through us. Simultaneously, this is a time of fervent commitment to continually die to ourselves and to continually live for Christ. In communion, we remind ourselves and each other that our provision for this life and all that is to come is found in Christ and Him alone. And, in communion, we sincerely and joyfully commit to life in this reality.

Fellowship

1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Matthew 18:20; John 17:20-23; Exodus 30:34-38; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

The word communion comes from the Greek word *koinonia*, meaning

partnership, participation, fellowship. This is a wonderful time of sharing with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Body of Christ (the Church). We share in our common bond as children of God, in our collective intimacy through Christ, and in our shared calling to a life on mission – sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Weekly

Exodus 25:13-30; Leviticus 24:5-9; Psalm 23; John 6; John 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 7:1

Our weekly observance of communion traces its roots to God's Table of Showbread in His Tabernacle. The table, symbolizing God's providence, provision, and peace amid life's shadows of death; the bread, symbolizing Christ's death that offers life in Him as we die to our self; and the wine, symbolizing our life lived in the tension of perfecting our holiness, all speak to the perpetual covenant of life in Christ. This table was to be set before the Lord perpetually and refreshed weekly. We too are to live the spirit of communion moment to moment, day after day. We come together weekly as a discipline designed to encourage each other toward living a daily crucified life with our Lord.

Participate

Genesis 3:1-8; Exodus 12:43-51; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3

Humanity has consistently been tempted to abandon the simplicity of being with God for the lust of being like God. In communion each of us and all of us return to the simple and essential Christ-life. As far as the Passover Feast is concerned, specific regulations were given for its observance consisting of two basic themes: only those in covenant with God and all those in covenant with God. For communion, we see this same theme pushing through, with additional articulation: examining your heart, participating in a reverent manner, and an overarching spirit of servanthood. In a nutshell, all who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior, surrender to Him as Lord, examine their heart and life, foster awe and contrition toward God, and remain committed to God's church as a servant, are welcomed and encouraged to share in this wonderful discipline.

Prepare

Pray *Psalm 139: 23-24*; talk with your family *Exodus 12:24-27*; desire to be with Christ *Luke 22:15 & 24:35*; come to remember *1 Corinthians 11:24-25*; come in faith *Hebrews 11:6*; come with thanksgiving *Luke 22:17*; come examining your heart *Psalm 24:3-5*; seek unity *1 Corinthians 10:16-17*; seek life *John 6:35-40*; come to worship *Revelation 19:4-10*.

Partake

1 Corinthians 11:24-25; Mark 14:20; Hebrews 4:11-16

We have strategically placed communion between our study of God's Word and our corporate expression of Worship. Our hope is that Christ's life, death, and resurrection represented in communion will provide the opportunity to courageously respond to God's personal call upon your heart illuminated by the Holy Spirit in the Word. As your heart is prepared to join in worship – when you are ready – come forward to take of the elements of communion. It is equally appropriate to partake alone or with others. Take all the time you need, then allow others the opportunity to approach.

Form has its place, but sincerity is crucial. God is real. Be real with Him.



To continue the conversation, email
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