

# THE BEAUTY OF COMMUNION

Corinthians 11:23-34

1 Corinthians 11:23-34 (NLT) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

*Six "what's" about Communion:*

1. It was established by the Lord Jesus.
2. It is to be consistently celebrated.
3. It is a table of remembrance.
4. It is a table of celebration.
5. It is a sacramental meal.
6. It is a table of love.

*Three "why's" of Communion:*

### **1. Communion has a PURPOSE.**

1 Corinthians 11:26 (ESV) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **2. Communion releases God's GRACE and POWER.**

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NLT) When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.

### **3. Communion requires PREPARATION.**

1 Corinthians 11:27-34 (NLT) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

*How do we prepare to come to the Lord's Table?*

- CONTRITION of heart.
- CONFESSION of sins.
- RECONCILIATION with others.
- APPRECIATION of Christ.
- EXPECTATION of impartation by Christ.