



WHAT IS COMMUNION?

grace
BIBLE CHURCH

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IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE JEWS WERE INSTRUCTED TO REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO DELIVER THEM OUT OF EGYPT BY PARTAKING OF A CELEBRATORY MEAL CALLED PASSOVER (EXODUS 12). THEY WERE TO SPECIFICALLY REMEMBER HOW GOD INSTRUCTED EACH FAMILY TO SLAUGHTER AN UNBLEMISHED LAMB AND MARK THEIR DOORPOSTS WITH ITS BLOOD. WHEN THEY DID THIS, THEY WERE EXEMPT FROM THE ULTIMATE CURSE GOD BROUGHT UPON THE PEOPLE IN EGYPT—DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TELLS US THAT CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS AS OUR PASSOVER LAMB (1 CORINTHIANS 5:7). BECAUSE OF HIS FINAL ATONING SACRIFICE AND SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTION, ALL PEOPLE WHO TRUST IN HIM ARE SPARED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD THEY JUSTLY DESERVE BECAUSE OF SIN.

BEFORE HIS DEATH, JESUS INSTITUTED A SUPPER AMONG HIS DISCIPLES THAT THEY WERE TO KEEP AS AN OBSERVANCE IN THE CHURCH, WHICH WE CALL "COMMUNION." IT HAS TAKEN THE PLACE OF THE PASSOVER MEAL.

AND WHEN HE HAD TAKEN SOME BREAD AND GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, "THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." AND IN THE SAME WAY HE TOOK THE CUP AFTER THEY HAD EATEN, SAYING, "THIS CUP WHICH IS Poured OUT FOR YOU IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD." (LUKE 22:19-20)

THERE IS NOT A SPECIAL PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN COMMUNION; HE IS FULLY WITH HIS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRETY OF THE GATHERING. RATHER, COMMUNION IS A **MEMORIAL** OF HIS DEATH IN WHICH HIS PEOPLE PROCLAIM HIM UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN (1 CORINTHIANS 11:26).

HOW OFTEN IS COMMUNION SERVED?

AT GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, WE OBSERVE THIS ORDINANCE OF CHRIST ON A REGULAR BASIS IN OUR MAIN WORSHIP SERVICE. IT IS OUR DESIRE TO DO IT REGULARLY SO THAT ITS IMPORTANCE IS NOT DIMINISHED; HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO TREAT IT AS MINDLESS RITUAL. THE BIBLE WARNS US TO OBSERVE COMMUNION WITH GREAT RESPECT IN WORSHIP. THOSE WHO SHARE IN IT IN AN IRREVERENT MANNER ARE IN DANGER OF IMMEDIATE JUDGMENT (1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-32).

WHO SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION?

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER IN THE GOSPEL, YOU MAY PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH OR HAVE ATTENDED FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE YOU'RE ELIGIBLE. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR YOU IS THAT YOU **TRUST IN THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL.**

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