

COMMUNION IN CHRIST

We have a saying with one another, that we are called by God "to share and show the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ". The Apostle John, who was intimately acquainted with Jesus says in **1 John 4:7-11**, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that **we might live through Him**. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Perhaps a more familiar verse for us is **John 3:16**, that is Jesus Himself speaking, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **Verse 17: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**"

We are believing on Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God, whom God sent to this earth to die on a cross, taking our sins against God upon Himself, and shedding His blood for the cleansing away of our sins. Jesus then rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death, so that we too, that is, all of us who are believing on Him, will also overcome death, and live eternally in Christ in His glorious kingdom.

As John said that Jesus was sent "so that we may live through Him", he also clarified that and what Jesus was saying when Jesus had said that we must all be born-again or born of the Spirit to be saved and inherit eternal life. John says in **John 1:11-13**, "But as many as received Him [that is, received Christ], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

God's Holy Spirit leads us to believe on Jesus, as being the Savior of the world, and then to receive His Spirit within us so that we may begin our new life in Christ. It is to be known to us then, that we cannot save ourselves, only in Christ Jesus do we find forgiveness of sins and a promise of eternal life. You know how Jesus proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**) Another thing that is for certain, it is never too late, while one is still living in this lifetime. It is not too late to call out to Jesus to save you, if you haven't already. "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (**Romans 10:13**) God desires for none to perish but for us all to come

to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**), which means to have a change of mind, to want the saving grace of God through Christ Jesus and to want become a child of God and to then live a new life in Christ.

There is but one way to be forgiven of our sins, to be reconciled to God, and to then receive His Spirit to where we become a child of God, and that is in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." The Apostle Paul is saying there, that it is only in putting our faith in the work that Jesus did, by dying for our sins can we be saved. Paul then continues saying in **verse 10**, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." We don't just believe on Jesus and then go about our merry way living our lives as we once had before. Once we receive His Holy Spirit we are then a child of God to where His Spirit begins working in us, making us into the image of the character of Christ. That becomes evident by the fruit of the Spirit that works in us. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

Partaking in what we call Communion or the Lord's Supper, is done in remembrance of what Jesus has done for us, by shedding His precious blood and dying on a cross for our sins, but it is also a reminder to us that Jesus is our source of spiritual food, as He dwells in us and works in us His Righteousness.

Before we partake in the Lord's Supper, we want to take a moment of silence to make sure we have a clear conscience before God. We want to surrender any unforgiveness or bitterness, or anything that can be a hindrance in our right relationship with God.

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Heavenly Father,
I confess that I have sinned against You.
I ask that You forgive me of my sins.
I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins,
I confess with my mouth that Jesus is my Lord,
and I believe in my heart
that You raised Jesus from the dead,
so that I can have forgiveness of sins,
and be reconciled to You,
God, My Father.
I now commit to You,
that I will repent of my sins,

and live in the newness of life,
being led by Your Holy Spirit,
all this I pray, in Christ Jesus, my Savior and Lord.
Thank You Lord! Amen.

In **John 6:54** Jesus said, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." Jesus said, that He was speaking spiritutally in saying that. The image of the Passover was and is a representation of being covered by the blood of Jesus and then feeding on the Word of God, of His Spirit working in us in renewing our minds and changing our hearts. That is partaking of Jesus daily. Those are things in the spiritual. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death, will also give eternal life to all who will put their trust in Him.

When we partake in what is called the Lord's Supper, or Communion, we are doing it in remembrance of what Jesus did and is doing for us and in us. Heavenly Father thank You for the giving us Your Son Jesus. May You bless this time of remembrance of the Lord's Supper.

"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" (**Luke 22:19**)

"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." (**Luke 26:27**)

May we all continue in the sharing and the showing the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ, as we have that hope, that one day He will call us to our eternal home, to partake in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!