

104.34. BREAKING BREAD WITH GOD. COMMUNION.

Jesus started the Lord's Supper, i.e., the Breaking of Bread, Eucharist, Holy, Communion, as a celebration for us to remember, that every time we eat & drink anything, that He is the one who provides all that we have & need. It's not just about a ritual, it's about remembrance & obedience, as He is the bread of life, that nourishes our spirit & soul, when everything else leaves us empty, John 6:48-51.

The nearer we come to the light, the more light we get, the closer we draw to the fire, the warmer we are & the closer we get to sanctity, the more saintly we become; so we remember His sacrifice on the Cross, for our sins, through the sacrament (rite, ceremony, observance) of Communion & do it often. After giving thanks, Jesus broke the bread & said, this is my body, broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me, He also took the cup, saying this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood; whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me, 1 Corinthians 11:24. These Words of Institution are the very heart of the sacrament & should always be spoken, as it's through Christ's Word & its Power, that Christ's body & blood are present in the bread & wine; so, the Words must always be heard & understood by any partaker; as the words, the elements (bread/juice) & the distribution, are all Biblically held together, Mark 14:22-25.

After receiving Communion, we should spend time in adoration of Jesus; as prayer & personal reflection brings us closer to God & more aware of His presence in our lives. We should do this often, as Paul said, on the first day of the week, when we are gathered together, we break bread,

Acts 20:7, indicating a weekly event. Paul also reminded us, that all who take Communion, should be able to fully examine their inner selves, in regard to the body of Christ, as anyone who eats & drinks without discerning the body, can bring judgment on themselves, 1 Cor 11:28-29. By discerning the body of Christ, we recognize & receive one another & all God's children, as equal brothers & sisters in Christ.

The goal of Communion is to help everyone to make a connection to God & to remember the Cross. Paul says, we are regarded as ministers of Christ & dispensers of His Word & sacraments, I Cor. 4:1.

Now there are no scriptures saying that Communion is to only be given by certain people, nor any that puts the "clergy" above any other member of God's church. The only rules scripture gives for Communion is that it be done in remembrance of Christ, I Cor 11:24 & that it is not be taken in an unworthy manner, I Cor 11:27.

Clergy, or kleros (Greek), refers to the inheritance laid up for all the saints, Colossians 1:12; Acts 26:18. Believers make up the clergy, inheriting forgiveness of sins & the power of the Holy Spirit & may lead a communion service; as long as they love the Lord Jesus & do lead in memory of Him, with full discernment & knowledge of what is actually happening, pertaining to the body & blood of Christ.

Be sure the partaker is knowledgeable enough to be able to examine themselves, through the spirit of God, as being one part of many, of the body of Christ? This is a critical issue, because if one takes communion without discerning the body, they can bring judgment on themselves, 1 Cor 11:28-29.

We can ask questions to be sure people understand what Communion is about; ask those who have professed faith in Christ, if they know exactly what it means to examine themselves; make sure that they can discern what the bread & wine means & why they are taking it? Do they know what these represent? Can they understand the depth of the meaning of the broken bread & drink symbolizing the broken body of Jesus & the blood spilled on their behalf? Are they somber in recognizing this? John 3:16

If a person has not professed faith in Christ & repentance, they should not be allowed to partake in Communion, as this is for & about the Body of Christ & both Baptism & Communion require that a person has received Salvation by Grace, through Faith in Jesus Christ.

Believers abide in Christ & He in us; in an inner promised land, that we find through communion with Him; For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, as the Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread with the disciples & when He had given thanks, He broke it & said, this is my body, which is for you; eat this in remembrance of me, 1 Corinth. 11:23-26.