

We are about to do something we do every week, something reported to be important, but just what is it we are doing? Are we trying to satisfy a rule, looking for another check mark as we get our Christian lives just right? Or is it something more? What is this about?

**Luke 22:17-20:** After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. (18) For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (19) And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (20) In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

This is not a ritual of precision. If so, then to match what Jesus did, we would actually pass the cup *first*, and we would drink it *after supper*.

No, it is about relationship. It s about communion. It is about thanksgiving.

**I Cor 10:16:** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of **Christ**? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the **body of Christ**?

**Eph 5:23:** Christ is the head of the church, his **body**, of which he is the Savior.

**I Cor. 12:27** Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Christ purchased the church. He purchased you and me with his blood. We have become the body of Christ, the body of the Lord.

**I Cor 11:29 :** For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

We can follow all the rules and not do right. This is not about rules that isolate and condemn people, it is about relationship and love that values and saves them.

We are not God's deputies her to enforce his rules and will. We are his refugees. We are beggars celebrating where we found food. Jesus is still feeding the multitudes. *This* is good news.

Will you rejoice in this feast and commune with me as we share in the Lord and recognize his body?

**Prayer for the Bread**

Great and glorious God, our Father who loves us so deeply, we praise you.  
Thank you for Jesus!

He became vile so we could become holy. He became sin so we could become sons. Thank you that he became us so we could become Him.

Bless us now that we may feast richly on this bread, representing his body, as we commune with you, with Jesus, with your Spirit, and with each other.

In the name of Jesus, our Savior and King, Amen.

Man was not made for this memorial, but this memorial made for man. Man was made for relationship, for communion. *That* is what this is about.

**Prayer for the Cup**

O Holy god who longs for us, thank you for this rich cup, filled with your mercy, your grace, and your love. Bless us now that we may drink deeply and rejoice, with you and each other.

In the name of Jesus, who poured this cup for us, Amen.