

Communion
(Turnpike Wesleyan Church – September 13, 2020)

Scripture Text: I Corinthians 11:23-33

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again. So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God’s judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world. So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord’s Supper, wait for each other.

Introduction

The Bible repeatedly teaches us:

1. If God isn’t here... it is not **church**.
2. If God isn’t here... you’re not **worshipping**.
3. If God isn’t here... you’re **wasting** your time.

This morning we are going to continue to worship in God’s very presence through Communion. But before we break bread together, let me share **five** words that I hope will help you better understand why we do what we do.

The Lord’s Supper is an Expression (v. 24)

“On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread

and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Communion is a way we can say to Jesus, "We **love** you and we **remember** what you did for us."

The Lord's Supper is an Explanation (v. 26)

"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again."

The word "announcing" means to **tell**, to **explain**. Thus every time we gather at the Lord's Table, we are **preaching** a sermon that Christ is the Savior of the world through His death on the cross.

The Lord's Supper is an Expectation (V. 26)

"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again."

As we come to the Lord's Table today, we can still be **joyous** in the midst of a troubled world for Jesus one day will take us out this world, out of the **storms** of life, to a far better place in heaven.

The Lord's Supper is an Examination (V. 28)

"That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup."

The warning is not there to keep us from the Lord's Table; it is there so that we will pause to see if there is something in our heart that might be out of **alignment**. Are there any attitudes, thoughts, unconfessed sin harboring in our hearts that we have **refused** to acknowledge and surrender to God?

The Lord's Supper is an Encouragement (V. 33)

"So, my dear brothers and sisters, when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other."

In our text for today, **five** times Paul says, "**come** together." He is saying that when you come to the Lord's Table; don't be thinking only of what you will get out of it, but think about others also.

People, I do not believe that Communion is a **sideshow** but a central part of worship for the **whole** body of believers.

Wrap Up

Leslie Weatherhead tells of a little boy who was admitted to an orphanage after his parents were killed. One of the first items on the agenda was to find him a new set of clothes. He was given a new pair of pants, a new shirt, and a new pair of shoes. Lastly, he was offered a new hat. But he refused to take it. He hung on to his "worse-for-the-wear" hat. Finally the Nun was able to coax him into at least trying on the new cap. He tried it on, liked it, but then did something very funny. He reached inside his old cap and tore the lining out and placed it in his pocket. Noticing that the Nun had a puzzled look on her face, he said; "The lining is a part of my mother's dress; it's all I've got left of her and somehow it seems to bring her back."

Communion is like that lining ... it is a **reminder** of all that Christ did for us and it is a reminder that soon and very soon He is coming back.