

**The Lord's Supper: we belong to Him  
AND to each other  
Philippians 2:1-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

**The Lord's Supper** - what comes to mind when you hear those words? Sometimes we merely go through perfunctory motions at the Lord's Supper. We dutifully sit in silence, bow our heads while daydreaming of the next movie we hope to see or the project for the week ahead, and take our turn at receiving the elements from the plates passed to us. We eat and drink and sing, then that's it. We feel as though we've done our religious duty. But to do so misses by a wide shot what happens at the Lord's Supper. Unfortunately, that's what took place with some among the Corinthian church. They did their religious duty in participating in the Supper but not in a commendable (or praiseworthy, vv. 17, 22) way.

The Lord's Supper reminds us of the death of Christ. The Lord's Supper sends a clear message to **all who will listen:**

***because of the dying of His body and the shedding of His blood, a Holy God has \_\_\_\_\_ with our sins.***

Why observe the Lord's Supper?

**(1) To \_\_\_\_\_** the body and the blood of Jesus.

**\* Christ's body was pierced & bruised for us. \* Christ's blood was shed for us.**

**(2) To \_\_\_\_\_** on our sin and on His promises.

**(3) To \_\_\_\_\_** our commitment to Christ and our commitment to each other.

**(4) To \_\_\_\_\_** for He has set us free, and He is coming back! Through the Lord's Supper we declare that we ***are a people who have found life in the death of Christ.***

We have said this before and it worth repeating:

**Baptism demonstrates our \_\_\_\_\_ identification with Christ and His church. The Lord's Supper celebrates our \_\_\_\_\_ identification with Christ and His church.**

What is a **Christian**? ***A Christian is someone who, first and foremost, has been forgiven of his sin and reconciled to God the Father through Jesus Christ.***

***A Christian is also someone that by virtue of his or her reconciliation with God has also been reconciled to God's people.*** Through Christ, being reconciled to God means being reconciled to everyone else who is reconciled to God. There's a community aspect to our Christianity. **The gospel is about reconciliation and unreconciled Christians do not advertise it well.**

**Together we can \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way we just can't by ourselves.**

## I. A common \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (2:1)

Before he offers his exhortation, Paul intends to draw the readers into the circle of their shared relationship to Jesus Christ. Verse one repeats the ***“if”*** clause four times. It is probably better translated as ***“since”***. So, he’s not expressing a condition as much as he is making an assertion of what is common to all believers.

The call for selfless unity in the church may appear impossible but it is possible thanks to a common experience in Christ.

## II. A \_\_\_\_\_ life in Christ (2:2-4)

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2)

1. A shared \_\_\_\_\_

2. A shared \_\_\_\_\_

3. A shared \_\_\_\_\_

### B. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:3)

Now please understand that to be humble does not mean that one must think less of oneself; to be humble means that one must think of oneself less.

### C. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4)

### III. A firm foundation: the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (2:5-11)

Verse five connects the exhortation to the church with the humility, death, and exaltation of Jesus Christ. It brings the church into an intense consciousness of what Jesus Christ did selflessly on our behalf so that we seek to mirror His selflessness in our relationships. If our confidence and gaze is upon the One who humbled Himself to the point of death on the cross, then we cannot pursue selfish ambition and empty conceit.

### CONCLUSION

So where do we go from here? Good question. What I've tried to convey to you this morning is that we do belong to Christ **AND** we do belong to one another. **The Lord's Supper is a reminder of both.** Yet, I'm not sure we all understand the implication of belonging to one another, of a shared life in Christ.

In just a few moments, we will partake in the Lord's Supper. Before we do, let us take time to examine our hearts as we draw close to God through this special event. Please allow me to share with you some **reminders**:

1. **Our approach to the worship of the Lord is an \_\_\_\_\_ of our regard for the Lord.**
2. **Our \_\_\_\_\_ of others serves as a barometer of our love for the Lord.**
3. **The celebration of the Lord's Supper should be \_\_\_\_\_.**