

## **BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: THE TABLE OF COMMUNION**

**Intro:** - Baptism is a sign and seal of **entrance** into God's covenant. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of **being fed and nourished** within the covenant. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper after having the last Passover feast with his disciples, and then sending Judas Iscariot away for the work of betraying Jesus.

### **I. THE RICH SYMBOLISM:** a symbol of God's **covenant relationship** with his people in Jesus Christ.

#### A. First, there is the table itself:

1. Although not the primary focus, the table is important (I Cor. 10:21, Rev. 3:20, Rev. 19:7).
2. The table is a sign of fellowship and love.
3. God is our Father, we are his sons and daughters. Jesus is the host, we are his guests.
4. The table also emphasizes the communion that we have together with each other as God's children.
5. The table emphasizes our place in the family of God and that God loves us and supplies all that we need

#### B. Second, there is the bread and wine:

1. The bread broken and the wine poured out symbolize the broken body and shed blood of Christ.
2. This is our spiritual food and drink, our nourishment and refreshment.
3. This is the means by which our spiritual life is fed, supported, grows and develops and is preserved unto eternal life.
4. Take note: the sacrifice of Jesus is not only payment for our sins and the way that we are restored to God's fellowship.
5. It is also our daily strength and nourishment and help until we leave this life and enter our eternal home. Christ is our all.

#### C. Third, there is the eating and drinking:

1. This pictures our faith and shows us the importance and necessity of faith.
2. Food and drink are of no benefit without our eating and drinking.
3. The broken body and shed blood of Christ are of no benefit to us without faith.
4. The Belgic Conf. calls faith "the hand and mouth of our soul (art. 35).
5. Just as we take and eat our daily bread and so receive it into our bodies, so by faith do we receive Christ and his benefits.
6. Beautifully symbolized is friendship: eating and drinking with God at his table.

### **II. THE HUNGRY PARTAKERS**

#### A. The guests who are called to this table of the covenant are members of Christ's church.

1. Christ instituted the Lord's Supper for his church.
2. Therefore we must understand that partaking is an obligation (I Cor. 11:28).
3. As young people we make confession of our faith so that we may come to the table.
4. We examine ourselves, not to see whether or not we may come, but that we may come worthily.
5. If there is any sin that prevents it, we must remove it through godly sorrow and repentance.
6. This means that to claim to be a member of Christ's church and not partake of the Lord's Supper is wrong!

#### B. God's children only may come.

1. Christ died only for his sheep. They and they alone are called as guests at the table.
2. That is why we have a supervised table. The elders are given responsibility to see that God's children come.
3. They also have the responsibility to see that unbelievers and those who are living ungodly lives do not partake.
4. There is great blessing to those who come in faith. There is added condemnation to those who eat unworthily.

#### C. Those called to the table partake because they are spiritually hungry for Christ's blessings:

1. It is a hunger we have because we see our own sinfulness and weakness.
2. We are hungry for the broken Bread of Life that alone satisfies this hunger.
3. We are hungry for the forgiveness of our sins.
4. We are hungry for strength we receive to continue our pilgrimage, fight the good fight of faith, & run the race set before us.
5. Can we live even one day without this nourishment? Do you have this spiritual hunger?
6. Recognize that even this spiritual hunger is a work of God's grace. He gives us the spiritual health that we are hungry!

### **III. THE BLESSED NOURISHMENT.**

#### A. The nourishment found in the Lord's Supper is Christ's pledge to us of his love and faithfulness to us as our Bridegroom.

1. We are eager for the great marriage feast of the Lamb.
2. The Supper is like a wedding ring which Christ puts upon the finger of his bride which we wear as a certain pledge.
2. The bride, the church is still in the world while her husband is in heaven. We wait for the heavenly wedding.
3. Here in the world we have much reason to despair of ever being married and joining Christ for we are so unfaithful.
4. The supper then is a pledge of Christ hearty love and faithfulness towards us. So we partake till Christ comes again.
5. What wonderful promises we receive of our Redeemer (I Cor. 1:30).

#### B. In this feast we are strengthened with Christ's life.

1. We are "more and more united to his sacred body".
2. Though Christ is in heaven and we are on earth, we are 'flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone'.
3. We live and are governed forever by on Spirit as member of the same body are by one soul.
4. Christ through his Spirit and Word continually nurtures and sustains us.

#### C. In this supper, we receive God's grace.

1. Given to us by faith is the attractiveness and beauty of our God. He works this attribute in us more and more.
2. We taste of god's favor and love. God lavishes this on us drawing us into his eternal covenant of friendship.
3. This is an undeserved and forfeited favor and stands in contrast with work and merit.
4. This grace is a power & operation within us whereby we are redeemed from the oppression, power, and dominion of sin.