

Administering The Lord's Supper, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, One Bread, One Body

1 Corinthians 10:16-17, *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."*

When we eat the bread, we partake of Christ's body. When we drink the cup, we partake of Christ's blood. The New Testament presents the Lord's Table as a church meal. The whole church participates together. This is what Paul emphasized in verse 17, *"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."*

The single loaf of bread was a sign that we are united to Christ. Together we are one, because each of us is in Him. We are nourished together, grow together.

Being one body means that we are bound to each other. The church is a family. We each still have our own families and we live with our families, but we also belong to the church family. In that sense, the church is a family of families, even though we do not share possessions and family relationships. We are connected to each other because we are one in the Lord. This is a real union.

In the church in Corinth the wealthy members ate the Lord's Supper alone in an exclusive club. This was rude and caused a scandal. The poor who were left out only because they had nothing. So here Paul corrected that wrong-doing. The cup of blessing is not a participation in a wealthy club. Instead, it is a participation in the blood of Christ.

Because we love Christ, we love Christ within our brothers and sisters. One sister shows what it means to give generously. One brother shows faithfulness in the middle of personal suffering. Two sisters are discouraged and need encouragement. Two brothers have great patience. One believer is kind and knows how to accept everyone through ups and downs. Another is humble and does not see his or her accomplishments as a reason for pride. One is strong and wise and offers insights into what path God would have us take. We learn Christ together. We suffer together. We rejoice together. We live and die together. We follow the apostles and their writings as our teachers. We follow Christ as our Lord and Master. We have God as our Father in heaven.

We come to this table and eat and drink a meal together. We cannot allow bitterness to grow, but instead take steps to restore peace. God loves His church deeply, and this sacrament is one of the ways that God shows His love for us. We rejoice in God. We rejoice in each other.

→Reminder to parents of young children and visitors. Young children must wait until they have reached the age of understanding the spiritual matters of the gospel of the cross of Christ. Visitors are asked to be communing members of a church, based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:32-33, "...everyone who

acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

OPEN THE BREAD.

That we may now be fed with the true heavenly bread, Christ Jesus, let us not cleave with our hearts unto the external bread and wine, but lift our hearts up on high in heaven where Christ Jesus is our Advocate at the right hand of His heavenly Father. All the promises of God are yes and amen in Him. Every spiritual blessing is found in Him. In joy of heart, come and partake of His precious symbolic meal, giving thanks for the great love with which He loved us. Let the death of this good Savior so grip your heart that you are set afire to live for Him, and to incite others to love God and follow His holy Word.

Pray, thanking God for the body of Christ, represented by this bread.

Almighty Lord, grant Your gracious presence, and work in our hearts by Your Spirit. Take this simple element of bread, and so bless it to us, that we may receive by faith the body of Jesus Christ, crucified and raised up for us. Grant that we may feed upon Him, & that He may be yet more precious to us. In His Name. Amen.

Say, “Please wait, and we will partake together.”

The bread which we break together is the communion of the body of Christ.
Distribute Bread.

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for a full pardon of all our sins.

Prayer of thanks for Jesus’ blood, represented, sealed, & applied by this cup.

Almighty Lord, once again we look not down to this cup, or inward to ourselves, but we look up to heaven's future cup! Grant that Christ may live in us fully by the Spirit, and grant that we may live in Christ through His resurrection. Grant that we may be holy in our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions for Him who has loved us and given Himself for us. Through His Name we pray, Amen.”

The cup of blessing which we drink is the communion of the blood of Christ.
Distribute Cup.

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for a complete cleansing of all our sins.

Let us pray, “Merciful Father, we thank You for Your merciful reminder of what You are like, and how that is confirmed in You giving Your Son for us. Lord Jesus, we thank You, precious Savior, for comforting us today and deepening our trust for our redemption in You because You gave Yourself for us. By the grace of God the Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.”

*Please remain seated for deacon offering & singing of Hymn 424,
“Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless.”*

(Romans 8:14-17), “... For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.”