

You're Invited to the Banquet  
I Corinthians 11:17-34, Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24  
August 6, 2017

1. It is a profound and sacred \_\_\_\_\_ to receive Holy Communion.

1.1 In Communion we realize our \_\_\_\_\_.

I Corinthians 10:16-17 ***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? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.***

1.2 In Communion we re-\_\_\_\_\_ Christ's sacrifice for us.

I Corinthians 11:24-25 ***“and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

1.3 In Communion we have a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Heavenly Banquet.

I Corinthians 11:26 ***For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.***

Luke 22:16 ***“For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”***

Isaiah 25:6-8 ***On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.***

1.4 In Communion we have radical \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.

Revelation 19:7, 9 ***Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ... 9 Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”***

John 6:54, 56 ***54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ... 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.***

1.5 In Communion we know the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.

John 6:55 ***55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.***

Matthew 26:26, 28 ***26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take***

**and eat; this is my body.” ... 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

Westminster Confession Ch. 29 VII. *Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this sacrament, do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually, receive and feed upon Christ crucified, and all benefits of his death: the body and blood of Christ being then not corporally or carnally in, with, or under the bread and wine; yet as really, but spiritually, present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.*

2. But there is \_\_\_\_\_ in receiving Communion.

I Corinthians 11:27, 29 **27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ... 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.**

3. There is also a danger if we \_\_\_\_\_ take Communion

Matthew 26:26-27 **26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.**

I Corinthians 11:24, 25 “...do this in remembrance of me.”

John 6:53 **Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.**

Luke 14:15-24 “... 24 **‘I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”**

Matthew 22:1-14 ... **8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ...**

4. The solution is to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.

I Corinthians 11:28 **Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.**

Psalms 139:1, 23-25 **1 You have searched me, Lord, and You know me. ...**

**23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

I John 1:6-9 **6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all<sup>[b]</sup> sin.**

**8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

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- We are standing at the doorstep of wonderful opportunity. And we are standing on the brink of great danger.
- Story of opportunity and risk: Saying "I love you" first. What if she doesn't say it back?
- We face both opportunity and risk every time we receive Holy Communion.

1. It is a profound and sacred privilege to receive Holy Communion.

- People often don't think about the amazing opportunity we have when we partake of this meal.
- Let's look at 5 incredible spiritual dynamics of the Lord's Supper.
- I hope this will help us get the most out of this experience.

1.1 In Communion we realize our unity.

I Corinthians 10:16-17 ***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? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.***

- You belong. You are an essential part of the Body.
- This is why we really can't take Communion alone.

1.2 In Communion we re-experience Christ's sacrifice for us.

I Corinthians 11:24-25 ***"and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new***

***covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

- **ἀνάμνησις**
- **Not just a cognitive “calling to mind.”**
- **Smelling the Coffee reminded me of the El Caribe. Smells like Grandma’s house. Tastes like ...**
- **It takes you back to an experience. You re-live it.**
- **So I rip the bread and pour the wine.**
- **“Pressed in little round circles for you.”**

1.3 In Communion we have a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

I Corinthians 11:26 ***For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.***

Luke 22:16 ***“For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”***

Isaiah 25:6-8 ***On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. <sup>7</sup>On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; she will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.***

1.4 In Communion we have radical intimacy with Jesus.

Revelation 19:7, 9 ***Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ... <sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are***

***the true words of God.”***

- Communion meditations of Matthew Henry (1662-1712), “In those days it was very common to approach Communion as the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. The theme of God's redemptive love is very strong in Reformed sacramental piety. The communion sermon would often take a text from the Song of Solomon.” (H.O. Old “What Is Reformed Spirituality?” reprinted in a letter from Jim Goodloe, May 18, 2017)
- Remember a few weeks ago I preached on Song of Solomon,
- “Come Closer: An Invitation to Intimacy”  
*“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—  
for your love is more delightful than wine.  
3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;  
your name is like perfume poured out.  
No wonder the young women love you!  
4 Take me away with you—let us hurry!  
Let the king bring me into his chambers.*
- Some told me you experienced greater intimacy with the Lord that week while others were a little uncomfortable with that imagery.

- But Jesus talked about an even deeper intimacy.

John 6:54, 56 ***54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ... 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Him or her!***

1.5 In Communion we know the real presence of the Lord.

John 6:55 ***55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.***

Matthew 26:26, 28 ***26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my***

**body.” ... 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

- Symbolic, memorial meal. Nothing mystical or supernatural.
- Transubstantiation
- Consubstantiation
- “Real Presence.”

*Westminster Confession Ch. 29 VII. Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this sacrament, do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually, receive and feed upon Christ crucified, and all benefits of his death: the body and blood of Christ being then not corporally or carnally in, with, or under the bread and wine; yet as really, but spiritually, present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.*

- **Wow! What an incredible privilege, to partake of Holy Communion!**

2. But there is danger in receiving Communion.

**I Corinthians 11:27, 29 <sup>27</sup>So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ... <sup>29</sup>For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.**

- Confession in Roman Catholicism
- Communion tokens
- Edwards

- So maybe the smart thing to do is to just abstain from Communion.

3. There is also a danger if we don't take Communion

- There's the danger of disobedience.

Matthew 26:26-27 **26** *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”* **27** *Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.*

I Corinthians 11:24, 25 “...do this in remembrance of me.”

- To receive the Lord’s Supper is an act of obedience.
- Further, listen to what Jesus said:

John 6:53 *Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.*

- This does not mean that taking Communion magically saves us.
- The same faith that draws us to salvation in Christ draws us to Communion.
- The same faith that makes us hanker for the heavenly banquet makes us hunger for the appetizer.

Luke 14:15-24 “... **24** *‘I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”*

- They give excuses.

Matthew 22:1-14 ... **8** *“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ...*

- The answer is not to decline Communion!

4. The solution is to examine ourselves.

I Corinthians 11:28 *Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*

Psalms 139:1, 23-25 <sup>1</sup> *You have searched me, Lord, and You know me. ...* <sup>23</sup> *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.* <sup>24</sup> *See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

I John 1:6-9 ***6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all<sup>[b]</sup> sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.***

- **Examine, Confess, Surrender/Repent.**
- **Cf. Smoking cigarettes.**
  
- **We are faced with risk and opportunity as we prepare to come to the table.**
- **Jesus was the first to say “I love you.”**
  
- **Regularly examine yourself before Communion**  
**Remember this before every Communion Sunday.**  
**(1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)**
- **Folks who are listening on line, prepare to receive Communion soon. Here or elsewhere. If you cannot come, an elder can bring Communion to you. Call us at 407.282.LOVE.**
  
- **In case you didn't prepare yourself to receive Communion, we'll take some time to do that now.**