

THE CHALLENGE OF COMMUNION

PRACTICING SPIRITUALITY IN A PHYSICAL WORLD

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

~ 2 Corinthians 4:18

1. Communion Challenges

- a. This doctrine is one of the most bloody and flesh driven doctrines in religious history
- b. Practicing it is challenging since we must learn spiritual truths in physical bodies
- c. We are living contradictions, because we are heavenly in earthen vessels – 2 Cor 4:7
- d. We look not at things seen, but we *eat* to the glory of God – 2 Cor 4:18, 1 Cor 10:31

2. What’s in the Food? – Remembering Christ

- a. We are to remember Christ, but he is not here – 1 Cor 11:24-26
- b. There is food, but we are the spiritual body of Christ – 1 Cor 10:16-20
- c. Jesus said his body and blood was food and drink – 1Cor 11:23-25; John 6:49 vs 35
- d. Note the difference between the literal body, the spiritual body, and flour
- e. Flesh profits nothing; meat commends us not to God – John 6:63, 1 Cor 8:8, Ro 14:17
- f. There is nothing special about the food, the food is in remembrance of Christ
- g. Communion is in His body and blood, but the food is naturally in ours.
- h. As soon as you put emphasis on the physical food, you have lost the import
- i. Why did God send manna in the wilderness, why did God send Christ – Deu 8:3/Mt 4:4

3. This Food Makes Me Hungry – Remembering who you are in Christ

- a. We must eat to stay alive, but are told to reckon ourselves dead – Ro 6:11, Gal 2:20
- b. We hunger in the body, but we are one new man complete in Christ – Col 2:10
- c. The Lord was Jewish, but there is no Jew nor Gentile in the Body – Gal 3:28, 1Co12:13
- d. Their meal was Passover, but we do not observe days – Ro 6:14, Col 2:16, Gal 4:9-11
- e. It is something we do often, but there is no ritual or ordinance – Col 2:14, 2:20
- f. Only the church partakes of communion of Christ, but everybody eats – 1 Cor 11:28

4. Get Your Own Plate – Remembering others in Christ

- a. Communion is about other people, but we have our own plates - Rom 12:5, Eph 4:4
- b. We do it to the glory of God, but food satisfies ourselves – 1 Cor 11:20-22s, 33-34
- c. We eat supper at home, hold special dinners, but this meal is sanctified for the church
- d. We are to come together to eat, but the emphasis is not the food, but the together
- e. When your body gets hungry you feed it, we are members of the same body –Eph4:16
- f. We eat today by grace – provided by the body of Christ for the other members
- g. The challenge is to remember why we come together to eat: we have in common the fellowship of Christ, the communion of the Spirit (2 Cor 13:14), the fellowship of the mystery of Christ. We eat together in celebration and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.