

# THE MYSTERY OF COMMUNION

## KNOWING YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

*“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ...”*

~ Ephesians 3:9

### 1. Communion was a Mystery

- a. The greatest distinction in the Bible concerns Prophecy and Mystery (not OT / NT)
- b. Communion is found in the revelation of the mystery: only in Paul's epistles
- c. It concerns our fellowship with the Lord according to the mystery

### 2. A Common Question

- a. *“Didn't Jesus do it with his disciples?”* ← Indicates ignorance of what it is
- b. The “last supper” was not what Catholics do (nor wannabees) – John 6:48-56
- c. Jesus did not institute a supper, nor was he talking about actual flesh – John 6:35, 63
- d. It is not merely eating together, nor just a memorial – Lk 22:19, 1 Cor 11:23-26
- e. The eating and drinking does nothing anyway – 1 Cor 8:8

### 3. Our Mystery Union With Christ

- a. The mystery of communion is not the “sacred mystery” of a cracker or the incarnation
- b. The religious mysteries remain so today, our mystery of Christ has been revealed!
- c. Communion is a doctrine not a dinner – 1 Cor 10:16
- d. Communion at the heart of the mystery of Christ → Ephesians 1:22, 2:15, 3:9, 4:4, 5:32
- e. Communion is the fellowship of the mystery → 1 Cor 1:9, 1 Cor 12:12-13
- f. The mystery of Christ is the body of Christ = our common union with Christ by grace.
- g. The body of Christ not found in before Paul when Christ brought together a nation
- h. Communion with the body/blood of Christ makes a new creature, a new man – 2Cor 5:17

### 4. What it Means

- a. We have different backgrounds, abilities, personalities, but all united with Christ – Eph 4:3
- b. Our union with the blood of Christ → Access, salvation, redemption, grace – Col 1:14
- c. Our union with the body of Christ → Crucified, resurrected, riches, grace – Eph 5:29
- d. We eat and drink together, but the food is nothing. Christ in us is what matters – Col 1:25
- e. We ought to remember Christ, but us in Christ, not Christ after the flesh - 2Co 5:16
- f. We pray before we eat to remember Christ who made us one – 1 Cor 10:17
- g. Where else can you have this in mind with others likeminded? – Phi 2:1-4
- h. The opportunity to remember Christ with others who examine themselves and know that they are in Christ is a treasure, a comfort, and a joy – Rom 1:12