

## DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME

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### Introduction

Today we're looking back at the Gospel of John, but we'll be looking at something that John doesn't actually record, but we know he was there, because he captures something on the same evening that communicates Jesus' heart for what we're talking about.

*Luke 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**"*

Every message has a purpose: The purpose of today's message is to bring light to what Jesus intended when he said, "Do this, to remember Me!"

Do what? **You might ask...** As a community, celebrate your deliverance from the Kingdom of darkness!

*Exodus 12:1-13*

The Jewish people had this message wired into their history through the Passover. The blood of the Passover lamb was painted onto their doorposts which would be a sign that death would pass them by. The blood was an indication that they were holy (set apart) from being included in the Judgment against the false gods of Egypt...

Jesus was saying, whenever you do this... do what? – celebrate your deliverance from the clutches of the enemy and your deliverance into the Kingdom of God.

Not because we deserve it, but because of the blood sacrifice of the spotless lamb, the Son of God.

### Communion

Throughout church history there are two primary sacraments that have been held to by the church. **These are Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Communion.**

What is a sacrament? A symbolic ritual commanded by Christ Himself and confirmed by the command or practice of the Apostles.

The word sacrament comes from the Latin sacramentum, which means an oath or a solemn vow.

In the mid-16th century, the Council of Trent defined a sacrament as "a visible sign of an invisible grace." **It's not that rituals like marriage, confirmation, ordination, etc. lack grace** or that there is no biblical basis for them, but in their zeal to call the church to measure **its actions against Jesus,' the reformers argued that none of the sacraments apart from baptism and communion were commanded by Christ himself in the Bible.**

Illustration: Me having communion in the Anglican Cathedral

Illustration: Neatly packaged communion pack

## 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion/fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion/fellowship of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

Communion: (not the sacrament)

- **Κoinῳνία** / koinōnia / koy-nohn-ee'-ah
  - o From G2844; partnership, that is, (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.
- The idealized state of fellowship and unity that should exist within the Christian church, the Body of Christ.
- *Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
- *Philippians 2:1-4*  
*1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Today I want to contend for the idea that the modern church...

- has lost the communal context of these practices, in its public gatherings focused environment...
- and has also lost sight of Jesus' original intention of fostering the ideal environment for the church to thrive grow and multiply...
- and that by understanding what Jesus was trying to do, we can truly become the community, the church He envisioned from the start.

**When Jesus said to his Disciples, "DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME!" He was NOT talking about drinking grape juice or wine, and crackers as symbols of the cross, it was a call to practice (as a direct result of his work on the cross) deep, meaningful, relational community, AS HIS CHURCH, the very people that God through Christ, is building today!**

/// Breaking a loaf of bread and drinking wine was part of a much deeper tradition than just a symbolic reminder of what Jesus did for us. It was part of a celebration that was practiced for centuries and Jesus was saying that He was the fulfillment of this age old practice. ///

When you do this, remember me!

What then, **did Jesus have in mind when he said, "DO THIS?"**

We must go back to the nucleus event to get a picture of what he meant.

1. The model

*Luke 22:14-20 & 25-27*

*John 13:1-17*

The breaking of bread during the meal signified, being part of something greater than yourself.

- When Jesus said things like, "Eat me, I am the bread of life." He was saying:
  - o Partake of me, experience me **and my way of life, live in me...**
  - o These are not mystic sentiments, but a call to follow Jesus practically.

"Breaking bread" is understood as shorthand for taking a meal together which includes the notion of more than nourishment, it involves fellowship.

When Jesus breaks bread He is saying partake of my body, be part of what I'm about to die to achieve. How do you do this? Like this!!! (Doing what He was doing here with His disciples).

Drinking of a cup during the meal was also a call to let this practice, this experience, be central to our way of life.

## 2. Discern the Lord's Body (Recognize the Church)

*1 Corinthians 11:17-34*

Paul's objection to the Corinthians was that they were not reflecting genuine, meaningful, Christ centered community.

How do we know this? According to his letter the Corinthians:

- Were showing Partiality / there were factions or division among them.
- They weren't caring for one another as Christ's disciples.
- And the crux, according to Paul, was that they had failed to discern the Body.
  - o What does that mean?
 

*Matthew 25:34-40*
  - o Seeing Christ in one another, in the least of these.

## Conclusion

Where does that leave us? **What was Jesus' intention?**

We are called to remember the reason Jesus came and live as if He was telling the truth.

He came to build His **community of believers into God's family of selfless individuals who favour others above themselves.** Who consider one another like God considered us.

When Jesus said to His **Disciples, "DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME!"** it was a call to practice (as a direct result of his work on the cross) deep, meaningful, relational community, **AS HIS CHURCH,** the very people that God through Christ, is building today!

Koinonia is a practice that should happen in our homes and whenever we gather as a community. No one should ever feel excluded.

When we partake of communion today:

- Find someone, two or three people to partake with.
- Look into their eyes and see a person for whom Christ gave His life.
- See their highest good.
- Ask them if they have a living relationship with Jesus and if not, invite them to surrender to Him.
- Now partake and pray for one another.