

Preaching Him

A Communion Message

1 Corinthians 11:26

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FOCAL Read Responsively 1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

I like to go shopping at the Goodwill Stores. Over the years I have found some really nice things at these stores. Though Goodwill is not a “Christian organization” it was founded in 1902 by Edgar James Helms, a Methodist minister in Boston Massachusetts. I particularly like the motto and mission of the store, which is “a hand up, not a hand out”. The Bible says **“if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10)**. God expects His people to work. He doesn't save people so that they can sit around collecting welfare checks. God's people are to be busy serving Him and doing as He said. Christianity is not about giving handouts. It's about giving a *hand up*. The Lord lifts us up from death and sin so that we can – with all joy – live and work for Him. We Who belong to Jesus are called to be world changers and mountain movers. The day that you responded to the call of Christ and heard His voice saying **“come, follow Me”**, you became one of His disciples. You were changed from the inside out by the **power of the operation of God**. You are no longer the same dead thing you were before. You are different, changed, an exemplar of God's love.

Some Christians get this and, once they are saved, they begin to go out and make a difference. Other Christians, however, try to keep walking in the same old dead paths they followed when they were **“dead in their trespasses and in sins”**. The Bible says of the Christian:

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh. But now you are quickened – made alive together with Christ. You are a living Creature of God, dear Christian, new and reborn. Unlike the lost who reject the Cross of Christ God has forgiven you all trespasses. You are no longer separated from God because of sin. God is in you, and you are in God, and it is all because of Christ.

The day you were saved you came forward to be baptized in water, obeying the command of our Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20). This is only done once in the life of the Christian if it is done according to the pattern that Jesus gave us (again, I reference Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism is a simple thing that men try to make overly complex. The Disciple of Christ goes down into the water and is submerged “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” just as Jesus said. As God the Son placed Himself in the hand of God the Father, the baptismal candidate surrenders himself to the baptizer. Just as Jesus died and was buried, but rose from the grave, the baptismal candidate is buried in water and brought out of water. It is a perfect symbol of what happens at the point of salvation. We die with Jesus, we will rise again.

Baptism is done but once. The Lord's Table, on the other hand, is done often. This is what we are told in our text today:

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

The Lord's Table is commanded to be done often. Why is that?

1. When You Observe The Lord's Table You Are Preaching Jesus

On most Sundays Christians gather together to *hear preaching* about Jesus. But when you gather together and take of the Lord's Table *you are preaching the Gospel yourselves*. This is what our text says. We read:

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

Word Study The word translated “show” is the Greek KATANGELLO (καταγγελλω pronounced kat-ang-gel'-lo), which means “to preach or publicly proclaim”.

This same word is used frequently throughout the Book of Acts. It is first used *and translated as “preach”* at:

Acts 4:2 {Peter and John} ... preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And in

Acts 13:5 And when {Barnabas and Paul} were at Salamis, they **preached** the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews ...

Dear friends, when you are partaking of the Lord's Table you are – in God's eyes – *preaching Jesus*. What are you preaching?

When you take the Lord's Table you are preaching the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ became incarnate, a word which means to “**become embodied in flesh**”.

The first thing you take in the Lord's Table is **bread**. Think about bread for a moment. Bread doesn't grow in fields. Wheat grows in fields and has to be made into bread. Wheat is made into bread by harvesting the grain, by crushing the grain into flour, and by mixing other things into the flour to make bread. Bread dough is beaten, formed, and then heated until it becomes edible bread.

Our Lord Jesus used bread to describe Himself. He said:

John 6:31-35 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. **(32)** Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. (33) For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life**

unto the world. (34) Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. **(35)** And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

Jesus Christ is the “**Bread of God which cometh down from Heaven, and giveth life unto the world**”. Just as wheat is harvested from the field, Jesus was harvested from Heaven. **Just as wheat has to change states to be used by us Jesus had to change states to be used by us.** Jesus Christ – Eternal God – came from Heaven and took on flesh. When we believe on Jesus He actually *enters our lives*, and lives within our flesh. The Lord's Table elegantly teaches this great truth. You preach this when you eat the Bread and drink the Cup. The Scripture tells us:

Philippians 2:6-8 {Jesus Christ}, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **(7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

When you take the Lord's Table you are preaching the necessary death of the incarnate Christ. He died for YOUR sins.

ILLUSTRATE The Lord's Table is such a simple sermon that even a child can understand it. A child

sitting next to his father whispers, “Why do we do this thing?” The father says, “**My child, we break this bread to show how Jesus Christ suffered for our sins. We pour out and drink this cup to show how Jesus shed His Blood for me and for you. We eat this and drink this to show that we are *not just saying* we are Christians, but that Jesus is inside of us by faith. He lives in each and every one of His believers.**”

People make the Lord's Table out to be complex, but its not complex. It is elegant in its simplicity.

When I eat the Lord's bread I am eating it *for me*.
When I drink the Lord's cup I am drinking it *for me*. I am not eating it for my neighbor, my wife, or my child. I HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST. HE DIED FOR ME!

God is in me, not because I am good, but because Jesus died for me. I am right before God not because I strain at holiness, but because Christ is in me. As the Apostle said:

Galatians 2:20-21 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (21) I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**

What Law saved me? **The law of Grace.** What right do I

enter Heaven. **By the right of Grace.** How am I held for all eternity? **In the arms of Grace.** Jesus Christ gave Himself for me, and I *eat* signifying my faith in Him and Him alone.

When I eat of the Lord's Table I am openly declaring there is no other way unto God *but Jesus Christ alone*.

The Bread represents Christ. The Blood represents Christ. It does not speak of any other god or goddess. I am saved *Sola Christos*, by Christ alone!

The Scripture tells us:

1 Timothy 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; **(4) Who will have all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **(5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

The Lord's Table clearly sets forth one Mediator **for all**. Everybody who sits to this Table can eat – anybody can be saved. Who did Jesus Christ die for? He died for all. **He gave Himself a ransom for all.** Are you not saved? It is not God's fault. You cannot blame some foolish man made doctrine of Election, saying “for this cause was I made”. No, silly child. All can eat, and you can eat. Do as Jesus said.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 And when {Jesus} had given

thanks, he broke {the Bread}, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.** (25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**

You are loved, dear Christian, and you are special. God paid the greatest price for you when He sent His only Begotten Son to die for you.

If you are not saved then what hinders you? Repent of your sins where you sit, and call upon Jesus and Jesus only and you shall be saved. You shall enter the family of God, just as we who have believed have entered the family of God.

We are family. We take this Lord's Table TOGETHER. We do this because salvation binds us together under His Blood.

Titus 2:14 {Jesus Christ} gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

We are His peculiar people. As that wonderful old song says:

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow black and white
We are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children

Of the world.

Jesus died for all the children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow black and white
We are precious in His sight.
Jesus died for all the children
Of the world.

Jesus rose for all the children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow black and white
We are precious in His sight.
Jesus rose for all the children
Of the world.

Whoever you are, you are *somebody's child*. Dear friend, Jesus loves you, He died for you, and He rose again for you. As you *together* take of this Table remember that the Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (17) For we **being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.**

The point of unity in a local Church is that **we are all partakers – eaters and partners with – that One Bread.** Jesus Christ gave Himself for US. What a glorious sermon we have to preach!

2. Take Care That You Are Not Preaching Falsely: God Holds False Prophets Accountable!

CONTEXT 1 Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily**, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

When God puts up a fence and a warning sign it would be wise for us to examine it. Most people gloss over the following verses. In fact, when I researched this verse in the commentaries, few even noted what was said. Yet these are very important words that can only be understood in the context of what we've learned before. When you take of the Lord's Table you are KATANGELLO – preaching what Jesus Christ has done *for you*. You need to remember, dear friend, that God holds preachers accountable. He holds false prophets accountable. Look at the word translated **unworthily**.

Word Study That which is translated “**unworthily**” is the Greek ANAXIOUS (Word: αναξιως pronounced an-ax-ee'-oce). The better translation is “**in an unworthy manner**”, which is supported by most other translations of the Scripture.

What caused Paul to address this subject? He notes earlier in our context that the Corinthian believers were not gathering around the Lord's Table and honoring the Lord. He notes that:

1 Corinthians 11:20-21 When ye come together

therefore into one place, **this is not to eat the Lord's supper. (21) For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.**

The Corinthians were treating the Lord's Table as if it were just *any old meal*. They were pushing one another out of the way, eating and denying others to eat. Paul said “**one is hungry, and another is drunken**”. They were eating to fill their bellies, and drinking so as to get drunken!

ILLUSTRATE There was a Church I pastored years ago where, following the Lord's Table, the children would gather in the kitchen to eat the leftover bread and greedily fight over the leftover juice. When I saw it I put a stop to it.

The Lord's Table is not just another meal, no more than Jesus Christ is just another man.

This was the sermon that the Corinthians were preaching, that **Jesus Christ is just another man**. The Apostle said:

CONTEXT 1 Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

Who was **guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord**? Who actually hung Him on the Cross between

two thieves? The Chief Priests and the elders of the Jews (Matthew 27:1) took council against Jesus to put Him to death. They saw Jesus as *just another man* Who stood in the way of their plans. The Bible says that they

Matthew 27:2 ... bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Pilate saw Jesus as *just another man* standing before him for judgment. Why it's just Jesus. He presented Jesus to the people, the enraged crowds.

Matthew 27:22-25 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. (23) And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. (24) When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. (25) Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

This Man that stood before Annas, before Caiphas, before Pilate, and before the crowds was not just any man. He is the Son of Man, God Almighty Incarnate, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is Jesus!

like those who crucified Him. You are guilty of the Blood and the body of Christ!

John MacArthur adds:

“The result of coming to the Lord's Table unworthily is that you are guilty of treating Christ's unique life and death as something common and insignificant. A man who tramples on his nation's flag isn't merely trampling on a piece of cloth; he is guilty of dishonoring his country. Likewise, someone who tramples on the body and blood of Christ, as represented in the elements of Communion, is guilty of dishonoring Christ Himself. Communion is a real encounter with Christ. It's so real that failure to acknowledge the reality behind it brings about judgment (v. 29).”

Paul told the Corinthians:

CONTEXT 1 Corinthians 11:28-30 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. (29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (30) For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Word Study We are told to **examine himself**. The word **examine**, DOKIMAZO, (δοκιμαζω pronounced dok-im-ad'-zo) means **“to rigorously scrutinize,**

When you take the Lord's Table **in an unworthy manner** you are mocking it, and in so doing you are mocking Christ. **You are guilty of treating Christ**

look at, examine, test to see whether a thing is genuine and trustworthy or not”.

ILLUSTRATE When I was in the Air Force we periodically had to do something called a *Non-Destructive Inspection* of our aircraft, abbreviated as NDI. You may not know this, but aircraft wings are not rigid, but they flex slightly as they are placed under stress. In time microscopic cracks can form in the wings, particularly in places where the wings attach to the aircraft body. In an NDI the aircraft is radiated – literally x-rayed – and the image is examined carefully to look for these microscopic cracks. It's much better to find these things while you're sitting on the ground than when you're ten thousand feet up in the air!

Before you take of the Lord's Table you need to do a NDI on yourselves. Ask God the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and flood your lives with His wisdom.

Is this just a dead ritual to me, or does it have true meaning? Do I understand that I am preaching Christ to those around me? Am I saved by faith in Jesus? As I eat of this Bread and drink of this Cup are these things symbolizing what has *actually happened* in my life? Did Jesus Christ have His Body **broken for me**? Did Jesus Christ **shed His Blood for me**? Am I in one accord with those I am eating this Table with? Am I part of **one Body, under one Blood**? Just as I consume this Bread and Cup, is **Jesus inside of me**?

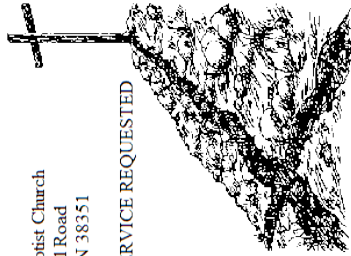
Only you can answer these questions. Paul warned the Corinthian believers, saying “**For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep**”. You can bring the judgment of God on yourselves – and even your own death – if you do not treat the Lord's Table with all reverence. Heed His Word:

CONTEXT 1 Corinthians 11:31 **For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**

May God speak to your hearts as we now come to His Lord's Table!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FOCAL Read Together **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

1. When You Observe The Lord's Table You Are *Preaching Jesus*

1 Corinthians 11:26; Acts 4:2; Acts 13:5; John 6:31-35; Philippians 2:6-8; Galatians 2:20-21; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25; Titus 2:14; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Word Study The word translated “show” is the Greek KATANGELLO (καταγγελλω pronounced kat-ang-gel'-lo), _____

- When you take the Lord's Table you are preaching the _____ of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ became _____, a word which means to “**become embodied in flesh**”.

- When you take the Lord's Table you are preaching the necessary _____ Christ. He died for YOUR sins.

2. Take Care That You Are Not Preaching Falsely: God Holds False Prophets Accountable!

1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:20-21; 1 Corinthians 11:27; Matthew 27:1; Matthew 27:2; Matthew 27:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:28-30; ; 1 Corinthians 11:31

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The Lord's Table is not just another meal, no more than Jesus Christ is just another man.

- Who was **guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord**? Who actually hung Him on the Cross between two thieves? _____

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