

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY
OAK GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH
Oct. 6, 2019

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 New International Version (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** 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." **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

SYMBOLS:

BREAD, made from flour, which is crushed wheat mixed with other things, baked, considered the staple of food, the most basic form of sustenance for human life.

--Jesus was saying that he needed to be 'crushed/broken' in death, must go thru untold suffering and pain, experience the agony of death, so that He could be the source of spiritual life for everyone

WINE, (We substitute grape juice) made from grapes which had been crushed, wine being similar to the color of blood, and symbolic of His blood being shed for the benefit of others. Blood is the essence of life, and Jesus was saying that He willingly was giving His life blood so that we could live eternally. This is difficult for anyone to understand!

--And then in I Cor. 11:23-26, Paul outlines how we are to repeat this ritual giving us a constant reminder of Christ's sacrifice of love for us, still today.

POINTS TO PONDER AS WE PARTAKE OF HOLY COMMUNION

1. It is a confession of faith, that Christ is Lord, an outward expression of an inner belief.
--In first century, this confession potentially could result in death
2. It is an act of worship.
--A means of formally saying thanks to God for sacrificially giving of His son for us, John 3:16
3. It is a way of saying that we are willing to join with Christ, even to the extent of physical death.
--As Christ gave His life for us, we too are willing to give our lives in service to others
4. It is a ritual of remembrance, of continuing to repeatedly renew our commitment to Christ.
--It is a means of helping keep us close to God, to be less distracted by the world around us
5. It is a means of helping us 'get our faith together', not reserved for those who have it all together!
--It is for all of us imperfect Christian pilgrims, who make mistakes along the way
6. It is an act of 'community' which reminds us of a common center, and dependance on each other.
--It is something we do together with other brothers/sisters in the family of God
7. It is a Holy action; we do not view it as a 'sacrament' which mystically makes us 'Holy'
--It is not a guarantee of salvation! But it certainly should be a meaningful act of thankful obedience, that as we participate, it helps us to become more like Christ, to identify more closely with Him