

Christians Need Weekly Communion

Text : **I Corinthians 11: 17-34**

S#1.

A. This lesson will address one of the fundamental elements of Christian worship.

1. It's an aspect of worship which has direct benefits for the worshipper.
2. As we gather around the Lord's Table we are reminded of His sacrifice for us.
3. This weekly reminder is designed to keep our faith alive.

B. We are gathered here today to commemorate the death of one who has no tomb.

1. He was killed in the battle against Satan and against sin.
2. He freely allowed Himself to be slain in order to save multitudes.
3. You and I are among that multitude that Jesus the Christ died and rose to save.

C. The vicarious death of Jesus is the reason we gather together each week.

S#2.

1. We do various things when we assemble as a church, but the scriptures state that partaking the Lord's Supper is the specific reason we gather.
2. Though we do specific activities, we don't assemble to perform "acts of worship."

*** Thus, the thesis of this lesson is :**

S#3.

"Every Christian needs the communion every week."

I. Men have always had a tendency to forget so God ordains remembrances.

S#4.

A. We forget famous people and events.

1. Who was the only congressman in U.S. history to be killed in the line of duty ?
 – Congressman Leo Ryan was killed while trying to bring home people who wanted to leave the Jonestown Cult in Guyana. Nov. 18, 1978
 (Do you remember who is Gabrielle Giffords, ? Congresswoman shot in 2011)
2. Who was universally celebrated as the first woman in space ?
 – Sally Ride in June 1983
 (There was a Russian woman 20 yrs prior Valentina Tershkova, June 16, 1963)
3. When was Pearl Harbor attacked ? **Dec. 7, 1941**
4. When was Kennedy assassinated ? **Nov. 22, 1963** Where ? **Dallas (Oswald)**
 (Four Presidents assassinated : Lincoln 1861, Garfield 1881, McKinley 1901)

B. Because we forget so quickly, God has a history of giving men reminders.

S#5.

1. **Gen. 9: 13-17** .. Rainbow to remind us of God's promise never again flood the earth.
2. **Exod. 31: 13** ... The Sabbath day to remind them that God sanctified them.

3. The feast days of Israel are reminders and ALL require an assembly :

- a. The Passover : **Exod. 12: 26-27** ... And when your children say to you, **S#6.**
'What does this rite mean to you?' **27** you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'
 - b. Feast of Booths : **Lev. 23: 42-43** ... You shall live in booths for seven days; **S#7.**
all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, **43** so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."
 - c. The Feast of Unleavened bread : **Exod. 12: 14, 17** ... Now this day will be a **S#8.**
memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. **17** 'You shall also observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance.
- * **Notice : All three of these memorial feasts celebrate God's deliverance.** **S#9.**

C. Jesus instituted a memorial feast to remind us of His delivering us from sin. **S#10.**

1. He instituted the new remembrance of deliverance and observing the old memorial.
2. **Matt. 26: 26-28** ... While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after **S#11.**
a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.
3. This is recorded in all three of the synoptic gospels. (Cf-**Mk 14:22-25**, **Lk 22: 14-20**)

D. This memorial feast is to be perpetuated in the church until Christ returns. **S#12.**

- I Cor.11: 23-26** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, **S#13.**
that the Lord Jesus in the night in which 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 He **S#14.**
took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

S#15.

II. This memorial feast was taken on a weekly basis, every “Lord’s Day”, Sunday.

A. The church in Corinth and the churches in Galatia met EVERY Sunday. S#16.

I Cor. 16: 1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. **2** On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. (Meet needs .. **Tit. 3:14**) S#17.

B. The Corinthians assembled for the purpose of partake of the Lord’s Supper S#18.

I Cor. 11: 33 – ..., My brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

C. The church at Troas assembled on the first day of the week for communion.

Acts 20: 7 – On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. S#19.

S#20.

D. Sunday is called “*The Lord’s Day*” because it is a special day to His followers.

1. **John 20: 1ff** ... Jesus rose from the grave on the first day of the week .. on Sunday.
2. **John 20: 19 & 24** ... Jesus Appeared to His disciples on two consecutive Sundays.
3. **Acts 2: 1** ... The Spirit was poured out and the first sermon preached on Sunday.
(Pentecost was the day after the 7th Sabbath after Passover ... **Lev. 23: 15-16**)
4. **I Cor 16: 1-2** (cf- **11:33**) ... The churches ate the Lord’s Supper on the first day.

S#21.

III. The communion must be partaken of in a proper way; it is a blessing or a cursing.

A. The communion is designed to be a unifying force.

I Cor. 11: 17-18 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. **18** For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. S#22.

B. The assembly is for the expressed purpose of partaking the Lord’s Supper. S#23.

1. **I Cor. 11: 33** – My brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another,
2. **Acts 20: 7** – On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. S#24.
3. Other activities in the assembly were ancillary to the partaking of the Lord’s Supper. Both the taking of the collection and the delivery of the message make expedient use of the fact that the brethren are all gathered in one place.

C. Improper taking of the Lord's Supper is condemned.

1. **I Cor 11:21-22** for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. **22** What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you. **S#25.**
 - a. They were treating some members in an unloving manner.
 - b. They were having a fellowship rather than remembering the body of Christ. **S#26.**
2. There's NOTHING in these verses about a church building; the context is communion.
 - a. It discusses improper conduct in the assembly ... not remembering Jesus.
 - b. The conclusion of this context re-emphasizes that.

I Cor 11: 33-34 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **34** If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. **S#27.**
 - c. There is no discussion of church buildings in the N.T. .. *buildings didn't yet exist.*

D. Eating the Lord's Supper improperly can bring condemnation !!**S#28.**

1. **I Cor. 11: 27-29** Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **28** But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. **S#29.**
2. This verse is often misunderstood and misused to the hurt of many brethren.
 - a. This self-examination has NOTHING to do with evaluating one's life.
 - b. No one is sinless; thus, no one is worthy to stand before God on his own merit.
3. The judgment is to make sure you are thinking about the sacrifice of Christ.
 - a. **Partaking is not just completing a ritual.** **S#30.**
 - b. It is an affirmation of faith. **Remember ... Vs. 26 – For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**
4. To partake without remembering is an insult to God which will be punished.

Remember the context ... *They were making the communion a party.*

E. Forgetting what Jesus has done for us has devastating consequences.**S#31.**

1. **I Cor. 11: 30** – For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.
2. Not partaking of the Lord's Supper results in spiritual malnutrition and death of faith.

F. The Lord's discipline is for the purpose of saving our souls.

S#32.

I Cor 11:31-32 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.
32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord
so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

S#33.

IV. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is a communal activity that is done together.

A. As the Jewish festivals required an assembly (*convocation*) so does ours.

S#34.

I Cor. 11:33 – So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat,
 wait for one another.

B. We've seen that the assembly is called to facilitate our breaking bread together.

1. Vs. **20** – Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

S#35.

2. The Apostle Paul met with the church for the purpose of partaking.

Acts 20: 7 – On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them,

CONCLUSION :

A. Therefore, we have seen that every Christian is required to assemble
 as a church every Sunday and partake of the Lord's Supper.

S#36.

1. To decide to do something different is a willful sin.
2. To partake of the elements while thinking about something else brings judgment.

B. We partake of it together to edify and encourage each other.

S#37.

1. Others observe us proclaiming our faith by partaking.
2. Just seeing the others together in the assembly is an encouragement.

* *The more wood on the fire, the higher the blaze.*

C. You are a powerful witness for Christ as you partake. "Proclaim His death .."

D. Christian, you need the weekly communion to draw you closer to God
 by reminding you of what He has done and is doing for you.

S#38.

INVITATION : If you are not yet a Christian, you need the blood of Christ.

S#39.

Project this slide while communion is being served ...

S#40.

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 11: 17-34**

17 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. **18** For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. **19** For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. **20** Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, **21** for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. **22** What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which 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 He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **28** But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. **30** For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. **31** But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **34** If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment.

See ... **Joshua 4: 19-24**