

CAPTURED BY COMMUNION

Part 6 of Confident Living

1 Corinthians 10:14-17. The Cornerstone Church, June 13, 2021

INTRODUCTION

This is part 6 of our **Confident Living** teaching series. We're exploring ways to stand firm through the storms of life.

So far in the series, we've looked at the strength we receive when we:

1. Renew our minds with truth
2. Help people in need
3. Rely on the Holy Spirit
4. Connect to other Christians
5. Invest in hearing and doing the Word of God

Today, we'll explore how our faith is renewed and re-energized when we're **CAPTURED BY COMMUNION**.

THE CONTEXT OF 1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-17

Our passage is 1 Corinthians 10:14-17. It's part of a longer section answering two questions that the believers in Corinth had asked the apostle Paul: 1) Can we still go to the pagan temple worship services and 2) can we still eat at the temple restaurants?

The answers of course are NO and NO. Absolutely not. God won't tolerate our mixed loyalties and will discipline us to help us stay exclusively committed to Jesus.

Paul doubles down on the meaning of Holy Communion in verses 14-17, but let's read to verse 22.

(1 Corinthians 10:14-22) Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

18 Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? 19 Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. 22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

The key word here is "participation" that could also be translated "fellowship" or "communion." It's the Greek word many of us have heard before, *koinonia*.

Paul's message to the Corinthians was simple: "If you think it's OK to participate in Christ with the church one day and participate in demons at the pagan temple the next, you have lost your minds."

The truth that makes us strong in the storms of life is this: **CHRISTIANS CONNECT TO CHRIST IN HOLY COMMUNION.**

HOW TO EXPERIENCE CONNECTION TO CHRIST

Internally and Invisibly

Our connection to Jesus happens by the grace of God. God's grace is received through our repentance and faith. Repentance and faith are decisions of our will to turn from sin and to follow Jesus. All of that happens internally and invisibly.

So, to make the invisible visible, and the internal external; that is, to help us experience our connection/union with Jesus, God provides the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. When we participate in those sacraments, God uses all our senses to assure us of our saving connection to Jesus. We hear, see, touch and taste that we are joined to Jesus and all his saving benefits, such as new life, forgiveness, and restoration to God.

Baptism

Here are passages that link Baptism to our experience of connecting to Jesus:

(Acts 2:38) Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

(Romans 6:4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that ... we too may live a new life.

(Colossians 2:12) ... having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

(1 Peter 3:21) ... this water (of Noah's Flood) symbolizes baptism that now saves you also —not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ ...

In Baptism, we hear the words, *Upon your profession of faith in Jesus Christ, I baptize you now in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* We also see, feel, and taste the water. Our bodies move; they go under and come up again. This is our tangible experience of being joined to Jesus, of dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ.

Holy Communion

Similarly, in Holy Communion, we hear the words (*this is my body, this is my blood*), and we see, touch, and taste the bread and the wine that connect us to Jesus Christ. As we eat and drink, our intangible connection to Jesus becomes tangible.

This is exactly what the apostle Paul taught the church in Corinth. At our celebration of Holy Communion we "participate" in the body and blood of Christ. The Greek word for participate is *koinonia* and it can be translated participate, have fellowship with, join, have communion with.

(1 Corinthians 10:16) Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a **participation** in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a **participation** in the body of Christ

Eating and drinking the bread and the wine are external and visible means by which we experience our internal, invisible connection to Jesus and all his saving benefits.

HOW DO THE SACRAMENTS WORK?

How do these two sacraments work? After all, water is just water, and bread and wine are just bread and wine. They have no inherent spiritual power. Yet, Jesus is present to us in or through them. How?

Although every Christian group claims to know the answer, I'm not convinced that they do. I believe that the honest answer is, "We don't know."

Baptism and Holy Communion are mysteries. God knows how they connect us to Christ and become spiritually powerful, but we do not. Maybe it's good enough to say that they connect us to Jesus but we can't explain how.

HOW COMMUNION MAKES OUR FAITH STRONG

How does Holy Communion make our faith strong in the storms of life?

1. Communion points us back to the Cross of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 11:26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The cross reminds us that God loves us, came into the world to find us, and died to restore us to himself. Knowing that we're loved by God renews our faith and gives us courage to face life's challenges.

2. Communion points us forward to the Coming of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 11:26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus is coming to reign in his worldwide Kingdom of justice and peace, so our troubles will not last forever. The Bible calls that our blessed hope. Hope fills us with courage to face whatever comes our way.

3. Communion unites us to the Church of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:17) Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

We eat and drink together at the Communion table because we are united as one people in Christ. We belong to a church family where we find help to walk through our dark valleys.

4. Communion is our Connection to Christ.

Think of that! When we come to the table in a few minutes, by some mystery we cannot fathom, Jesus will be present with us in the bread and the wine. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will participate in him. Jesus is with us and in us whatever we face in life. He is the strength of our lives forever.

NEXT

For all four of those reasons, Holy Communion should capture us. It should capture our minds and our emotions. It should capture our imagination. It should capture our faith and our hope and our praise. It should capture our thanksgiving and our lifestyle. That's why we come to the Table today.

Take a moment now and pray to be captured. "*Holy Spirit, grant that we may all be captured by the Christ we meet in Holy Communion.*"

Here's what will happen next.

First, we'll prepare for Holy Communion in a three part sequence:

1. We'll sing a song: Come to the Altar.
2. We'll confess our sins and hear the Gospel promises of forgiveness and cleansing. This will make our connection to Christ so much sweeter.
3. We'll profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed because our connection to Christ is experienced through repentance and faith.

That's all preparation.

Then, we'll participate in Christ through our celebration of Holy Communion.

After that, we'll praise our God by singing together.

Access today's teaching notes = FamousGod.com//teaching-notes

CONFESSION & GOSPEL PROMISES

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9).

Let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the right to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Therefore ... Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13).

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;

and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The Lord Jesus Christ stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. Hallelujah!

PETER: LET US PRAY:

It is right always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” (Revelation 5:12-13)

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

COME TO THE TABLE.

Heavenly Father, We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.

ALL: To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, June 13, 2021

1:30	Welcome & Prayer -joey
3:20	<i>Happy Day</i> joey
4:27	<i>the house of the lord</i> joey
0:45	Pray & Dismiss Kids-joey
3:00	Bible Reading Rom 10:1-13 -Janie
3:00	Abbreviated Prayer -Peter
25:00	Teaching: Captured by Communion -Peter
0:00	<i>O Come To The Altar</i> joey
0:00	Confession of sins and Gospel - Peter
0:00	Apostle's Creed -Peter
0:00	communion - Peter Ben play background music pls
4:55	<i>Great Are You Lord</i> joey
1:30	Updates -Peter & Joey online at famousgod to fill out digital connect card
0:30	Blessing- Peter

Updates:

- Connect card and contact us. In person and online
- Experience the Holy Land - 2022. Information Meeting - June 27.
- Everything you need to know - FamousGod.com and social media.