

## It Happened At Communion

***“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread...***

***Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason (not discerning the Lord’s body), many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (die early). For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”*** 1 Corinthians 11:23, 27-31

1. We do not live for the Lord on earth to prepare us for heaven. We are just as ready for heaven fifty years after the new birth as we were at the point of salvation.
2. The communion table is where God meets us for sanctification – not salvation.
  - a. It is called the “Lord’s table,” not the “Savior’s table.”
    1. Communion does not save a person.
    2. The elements show the work of the cross in our walk with the Lord.
  - b. It is a place to refocus our attention on the Lord and remember the results of the cross for power to live the Christian life under the Lordship of Jesus.
  - c. The cup shows the work of the blood after salvation.
    1. It is to be taken in sanctification for sanctification.
    2. It is a moment for confession of sins *before* taking the elements. *“Let a man examine himself then let him eat”* (vs. 28).
  - d. The bread shows the work of His body in our daily life (vs. 30).

## Sinners Are Different Than Carnal Christians

1. Carnal believers were taking communion in Corinth.
2. A carnal believer lives from the flesh and imitates the unbeliever.

*“I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ...Are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”* (1 Corinthians 3: 1, 3)

*“Therefore, He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”* (Ephesians 5:14)
3. At any moment, a believer is either spiritual or carnal - controlled by the Holy Spirit or the flesh.
4. A carnal believer can partake if they confess their sins.
5. An unbeliever cannot take communion at all.

## **The Communion Table is Only for Believers – Not Unbelievers**

1. Neither water baptism nor communion can save. Both show holiness for believers not salvation for sinners.
2. Spiritual believers are commanded to eat and drink.
3. Carnal believers are commanded to examine their own heart and, if needed, repent, then eat and drink.
4. Sinners are not to eat of the communion table at all.

### **Judas and Peter**

#### **Judas Was a Sinner: He Rejected Jesus**

*“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*

*Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*

*Then, leaning back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”*

*Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, “Buy those things we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.*

*Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.” (John 13:21-30)*

Judas was a wolf in sheep’s clothing. He was confronted and fled the room at the end of the meal before the disciples took communion.

1. Jesus took communion with the remaining eleven.
2. Judas could not receive communion. He was not saved.
3. If Paul said Jesus took the first communion with His disciples, Judas could not have been present for it.

### **Peter**

*“Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:*

*‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’*

*But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”*

*Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”*

*Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”*

*Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”*

*And so said all the disciples.” (Matthew 26:31-35)*

1. Peter took the communion. He denied he knew the Lord with anger and cursed.’
2. Peter was a carnal believer.

### **Regret and Repentance**

*“Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”*

*And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!”*

*Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself.” (Matthew 27:3-5)*

1. Judas was an unbeliever. He hanged himself and went to hell, his own place (Acts 1:25, John 6:70, Matthew 7:21-23).
2. Peter was a carnal believer. He sinned then returned to the Lord and repented.
  - a. If Peter died in his carnality, he would have gone to heaven as a carnal believer. His sins and physical death would be handled at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
  - b. Judas went to the place all sinners go. His sin of rejecting Jesus will one day be handled at the Great White Throne.
3. Taking the communion elements as a Christian with known sin in our life can lead to an early death, “many sleep (die early).”
4. Many continued in taking communion with known sin and died already (1 Corinthians 11:30).