

Sharing the Body of Christ I Cor. 10

Introduction

Christ gave the sacraments to the church rather than to individuals.

There is an individual aspect to the sacraments—union w/ Christ.

They are for the Body of Christ.

I. In the sacrament, celebrate your union & communion with Christ.

A. You have no deliverance from sin without being united to Christ.

1. Some only want the benefits of redemption; it's a package deal!

2. His love is not given for you to do as you please.

B. The basis of your union with Christ is His body given for you.

1. His death was a sacrifice; the body had to suffer & die.

2. The Jews understood this from the OT sacrifices.

C. In this union you have life and fellowship with God.

1. Without this union you could not have life. (Parasite)

2. God cuts off the other branches. [John 15]

D. Your union with Christ also unites you to fellow-believers.

1. Since all who belong to Christ are one body, you belong to them.

2. Therefore, you have an obligation to one another.

II. In the sacrament you are sharers of Christ's Body and Blood.

A. This sacrament is for you with the Body, the Church.

1. Paul focuses on the Body in I Corinthians.

a. 1-3: Divisions should not exist; be rid of them. (3:16, temple)

b. 4-7: Purge the Body of uncleanness. (6:16, temple)

c. 8-9: Encourage the Body.

d. 10-11: Partake only of Christ's Body.

e. 12-14: Gifts given to the body and her worship.

f. 15: Resurrection of the Body

g. 16: Care of the Body.

2. This focus on the Body is needed: be clean in the marriage to JC.

B. In the sacrament you declare that you belong to one another.

1. The cup and loaf signify this—one cup and loaf for one Body.

2. It is not a sacrament merely for you as an individual.

C. Your relationship to Christ affects the whole Body.

1. Like diseased body parts, all who are in sin hurt the whole body.

2. There are many "one anothers" denoting your duties to all.

3. In such a union you have great strength in Christ.

Conclusion

The sacraments are not grace, but means of grace.

They are for you in the church, united to one another in Christ.

Consider how your life affects the other members.

Psalms 96A, 107D, 108A