

**“Fellowship With Christ!”**  
**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**Introduction:**

1. Please Head Back With Me To 1 Corinthians 11 This Morning!
  - In This Chapter:
    - Paul Has Been Dealing With Some Problems In The Way The Christians In The Corinthian Church Were Worshipping The Lord!
    - Especially In A Very Special Form Of Worship, Which Is Called The “Lord’s Supper” In 11:20!
  - Last Week:
    - Through 11:17-22:
      - We Learned How *Not* To Approach God In Worship! And How *Not* To Participate In The “Lord’s Supper!”
      - Read Verses!
    - The Problem Was That When They Came Together For Worship & Fellowship:
      - It Was: “Not For The Better, But For The Worse!”
    - Even When They Came To The Lord’s Supper:
      - It Became A Source Of Contention Instead Of Communion With The Lord & With Each Other!
      - Matthew Henry - “What was appointed to feed the soul was employed to feed their lusts and passions. What should have been a bond of mutual [fellowship] and affection was made an instrument of discord and disunion!”
  - This Week:
    - Through 11:23-26:
      - We Will Learn How We *Should* Worship & How We *Should* Understand & Participate In The Lord’s Supper!
      - Read Verses!
2. Because Of These Familiar Verses:
  - Which Echo Parallel Passages In The Gospels:
    - We Continue To Participate In The Lord’s Supper!
    - As Christian Churches Have Done Throughout History!
  - And There Are Many, Many Things That We Can Look At & Learn From About The Lord’s Supper!
  - But There Is One Thing We Find In These Verses That I Believe We Need Today More Than Any Of The Other Things We Might Learn From Here!
    - And That Is The Incredible Opportunity *You & I* Have For Fellowship With Jesus Christ!
    - The Focus Of All Of Our Worship!
      - The Focus Of All Of Our Services!
      - And The Focus Of The Lord’s Supper In Particular!
      - Can & Ought To Be – Fellowship With Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
3. **IE:** What Makes Thanksgiving Dinner Or A Christmas Dinner So Special?
  - Is It The Food?
  - Is It The Occasion?
  - Or Is It The People?
    - Family & Friends – People You Truly Love & Care About Coming Together For A Meal!
    - There Are Few Better Places For People To Enjoy Fellowship Than Around The Table For A Meal!
4. And This Is What Makes The Lord’s Supper So Special As Well!
  - It Is Not Just The Food:
    - Even Though Each Element, The Bread & The Juice, Is Rich With Symbolical Significance!
  - It Is Not Just The Occasion:
    - Even Though It Should Be A Very Solemn Time, As We Consider The Great Sacrifice Jesus Made On The Cross For Our Sins!
  - But It Is The People!
    - The Lord’s Supper Is So Special, Because The Lord Jesus Christ Is Inviting You To Enjoy A Time Of Fellowship With Him At His Table!
  - Think About It!
    - The Creator Wants Fellowship With His Creation!
    - The Master Wants Fellowship With His Servants!
    - The Savior Wants Fellowship With The Sinner!
    - And The Lord Jesus Christ Wants Fellowship With You!
5. I Want Each Of Us To Consider One Simple Question This Morning, As We Look At These Verses:
  - Are We Enjoying Fellowship With Christ?
    - When We Participate Together In The Lord’s Supper?

- Or When We Come To Worship?
- Are We Experiencing & Enjoying True Fellowship With Jesus Christ?

\* Fellowship With Christ Is So Special & Enjoyable Because:

**1. It Is Based On The Personal Invitation Of Christ To You!**

- 11:23-25 - “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: / And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. / After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me!”
  - Paul Understood The Fellowship Described In These Verses!
  - When He Writes:
    - “For I Have Received Of The Lord That Which Also I Delivered Unto You!”
  - He Is Not Just Talking About:
    - The Instructions He Received From The Lord!
    - On What The Lord’s Supper Means & How To Perform The Lord’s Supper!
      - Though This Is Part Of It!
  - No - He Is Also Talking About:
    - The Fellowship He Received From The Lord!
    - Through The Lord’s Supper!
    - Paul Is Wanting Us To Share With Him:
      - What The Lord Jesus Shared With Him!
      - Fellowship! True Fellowship!
  - The Lord’s Supper:
    - Is An Invitation For Fellowship!
- **IE:** A Mother Had Just Spend A Lot Of Time, Energy & Money Planning For Her Daughter’s Wedding. After Considering Everything She Had Done, She Made The Comment: “When Throwing A Party, The Invitation Is The Hardest Part!”
  - For Humans, Sending Out The Invitations Can Very Well Be The Hardest Part!
    - For We Are Limited In Many Ways!
      - Limited Budget!
      - Limited Seating!
      - Limited Friends!
  - But For The Lord, The Invitation For Close, Loving, Intimate Fellowship Is Open To Everyone Who Is His Child!
    - He Has No Limitations!
    - And So The Opportunity For Fellowship Is Open For **You!**
      - It Is Not Just Something Reserved For The “Great Men & Women Of God From Times Past!” No – It Is Something Reserved For You!
- He Made Fellowship With Him Possible For You!
  - If The Bread & Cup Had Not Been **Prepared** By The Lord, You Would Not Be Able To Come To His Table For Fellowship!
    - But “Jesus **Took** Bread” & “He **Took** The Cup!”
    - The Bread Represents His Body!
      - Which Was Broken For Us!
    - The Cup Represents His Blood!
      - Which Was Shed For Us!
    - These Two Things Show Us What He Gave!
      - So That We Could Have True Fellowship With Him!
    - And He Gave Up Both His Body & His Blood Was A **Willing** Sacrifice For Our Sins!
  - If The Bread & Cup Had Not Been **Blessed** By The Lord, You Would Not Be Able To Come To His Table For Fellowship!
    - But Jesus **“Blessed”** & **“Had Given Thanks!”**
    - This Shows That He Gave Himself Up As An **Acceptable** Sacrifice, So You Could Have Fellowship With Him!
  - If The Bread & Cup Had Not Been **Offered** By The Lord, You Would Not Be Able To Come To His Table For Fellowship!
    - But Jesus **“Gave”** The Bread & The Cup!
      - So You Could Take It & Eat & Drink!
    - This Shows That He Gave Himself Up As A **Personal** Sacrifice, So You Could Have Fellowship With Him!

- Are You Enjoying Fellowship With Christ?
  - You Can, Because He Has Made It Possible For You!
    - And When You Believe & Accept The Lord's Sacrifice (Willing, Acceptable, Personal) For Yourself, You Can Enjoy An Intimate Fellowship With Christ!
  - You Can, Because He Has Given You A Personal Invitation For Fellowship With Him!

\* Fellowship With Christ Is Also So Special & Enjoyable Because:

**2. *It Is Experienced Through A Personal Relationship With Christ!***

- 11:26a - "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup!"
- **IE:** In 2005, Hundreds Of Volunteers Scoured The Rugged Mountains Of Utah In Search Of 11-Year-Old Boy Scout, Brennan Hawkins. When Brennan Was Slow To Wriggle Out Of His Climbing Harness At A Climbing Wall, A Buddy Of His Yelled "Catch Up With Me" And Ran For A Steak Dinner With Other Boy Scouts. As Brennan Tried To "Catch Up," He Took A Wrong Turn On A Trail & Spent 4 Days Wandering Around In The Wilderness. On A Hunch, Forrest Nunley Decided To Continue The Search On His Own. As He Drove His 4-Wheeler Along A Trail Some 5 Miles Away From Where Brennan Was Last Seen, He Surprised Brennan On The Trail! One Of The First Things Offered To Brennan Was Water – He Had Not Had Much Water Since He Disappeared Days Before – He Was Dehydrated & Probably Wouldn't Have Lasted Much Longer! What Did Brennan Do When He Was Finally Safe & Offered Something To Drink & Eat? He Drank & Ate Whatever Was Offered To Him! What Would You Think Of Him If He Turned It Down? Sick? Ungrateful?
  - When Christ Offered His Disciples His Bread & His Cup:
    - We Read In The Gospels That:
      - "They Drank All Of It!"
  - The Lord Invites You Into Close Fellowship With Him So That You Will Take Him Up On The Offer!
    - He Wants You To "Eat" All That He Is Giving You!
    - He Wants You To "Drink" All That He Is Giving You!
    - And He Wants Us To Do It "Often!"
      - And Regularly! Whether Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly – We Need To Look Forward To It Each Time With Anticipation & Preparation!
  - 11:26a - "For As Often As Ye Eat This Bread, And Drink This Cup!"
    - What Is The Bread & The Cup?
      - "They are Christ's body and blood, his body broken, his blood shed, together with all the benefits which flow from his death and sacrifice!" (Matthew Henry)
    - He Wants Us To Take Him Up On His Offer, And Experience This Close, Personal Relationship With Him!
  - Have You Ever Talked With Someone Who Described Their Fellowship With Christ As:
    - Not Just Living Under A List Of Rules Of What To Do & What Not To Do?
      - Unfortunately, Too Many Christians Think That This Is What Fellowship With Christ Is All About!
    - But This Is Not What Fellowship With Christ Is All About!
      - It Is About Pursuing A Relationship With The Lord, As You Would Pursue The Most Valuable Possession In The World To You!
  - Are You Enjoying Fellowship With Christ?
    - When You "Eat" All That He Gives You!
    - When You "Drink" All That He Gives You!
      - You Will Experience A Relationship & Fellowship With The Lord Like You Never Thought Possible!
    - When You Spend Time With The Lord, Through His Word & Through Prayer, You Will Soon Enjoy This Fellowship That He Freely Offers!

\* Fellowship With Christ Is So Special & Enjoyable Because:

**3. *It Is Rewarded By A Personal Hope In Christ!***

- 11:26b - "Ye do shew the Lord's death till he come!"
- **IE:** One Of Fanny Crosby's Most Famous Hymns Almost Never Saw The Light Of Day! One Day, This Godly Blind-Woman Was Asked By The Evangelist D. L. Moody To Give A Personal Testimony In One Of His Meetings. When She Finally Stood To Give Her Testimony, She Said: "There Is One Hymn I Have Written Which Has Never Been Published. I Call It My Soul's Poem! Sometimes When I Am Troubled, I Repeat It To Myself, For It Brings Comfort To My Heart!" And Then She Said: "Some day the silver cord will break, And I no more as now shall sing; But oh, the joy when I shall wake, Within the palace of the King! And I shall see Him face to face, And tell the story—Saved by grace; And I shall see Him face to face, And tell the story—Saved by grace!"
  - What A Delight It Is To Know That If You Have Fellowship With Christ In This Life, You Will Have Everlasting Fellowship With Christ In The Next!
  - But It Is An Even Greater Delight To Know That Christ Is Looking Forward To That Everlasting Fellowship

- As Much, And Even More, Than You Are!
  - This Communion “Is A Symbol Of The Glorious Reunion And Never-Ending Festivities Awaiting The Children Of God, In Fellowship With Their Savior!” (William Hendrickson)
- Fellowship Is A Joint Venture!
  - It Takes The Desire & Effort Of More Than One!
  - Fellowship Occurs When You Join Together With Christ & Enjoy Him!
    - And The Lord’s Supper Provides Us An Opportunity To Do Just That!
- The Lord’s Supper Is A Time To Remember:
  - What Jesus Did For Us On The Cross!
    - When His Body Was Broken!
    - When His Blood Was Shed!
- The Lord’s Supper Is A Time Of Revelation:
  - To “Shew The Lord’s Death!”
  - To Display Your Love For The Lord!
  - To Display Your Interest In The Lord!
  - To Display Your Witness For The Lord!
- The Lord’s Supper Is A Time Of Rejoicing:
  - “Till He Come!”
  - Looking Back & Looking Forward To When We Will See Jesus Face To Face, As The Disciples Did During That Very First Lord’s Supper!
- Are You Enjoying Fellowship With Christ?

**Conclusion:**

1. Fellowship With Christ Is Not Something That Is Reserved Only For Those Spiritual Giants You Read About In The Bible Or Hear About In Messages!
  - Close, Intimate Fellowship With Christ Is A Real Opportunity For Every Single One Of His Children!
    - It Is A Real Opportunity For You!
2. Fellowship With Christ:
  - Is Based On The Personal Invitation Of Christ – To You!
    - Christ Desires This Kind Of Relationship More Than You Desire It!
    - He Has “Brought [You] To [His] Banqueting [Table], And His Banner Over [You Is] Love!” (Song Of Solomon 2:4)
  - Is Experienced Through A Personal Relationship With Christ!
    - Are You Taking Him Up On His Offer?
    - Are You Eating The Spiritual Meat & Drinking The Spiritual Drink That He Freely Offers?
      - To Give You Spiritual Health, Strength, Vitality, & Joy!
      - Through The Word, Through Prayer, Through Each Other!
  - Is Rewarded By A Personal Hope In Christ!
    - 1 Corinthians 13:12 - “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face!”
3. **IE:** “A small country church in Wisconsin has a special tradition that they have used at the close of their communion services for a number of years. It is adapted from an ancient Jewish closing of the Passover meal. Since it is the hope of every devout Jew to celebrate the Passover at least once in David’s city, the Jewish custom is to end the meal with a toast. Passover participants raise the cup and say, “Next year, in Jerusalem!” The cup in the Lord’s Supper serves as two reminders: we are to look back to the shed blood of Christ and forward to the Lord’s second coming. In other words, for all Christians, there will be a last sharing of the bread and the cup on this side of eternity: when they meet once again, they will be in Christ’s presence. At the close of communion, the members of this church raise their cups in anticipation and say, “Next time, with Christ!”
  - Every Believer Will Certainly Enjoy Their Fellowship With Christ When They Are In Heaven!
    - But, Are You Enjoying Fellowship With Christ Today?

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