

Communion and Feet Washing

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I. True worship of the true God requires spirit and truth

Joh 4:24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

Mat 15:7 *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but **their heart is far from me.**

Mat 15:9 But **in vain they do worship me**, teaching *for doctrines* the commandments of men.

A. The inward spirit (not the outward show) really matters

1. New Testament worship was never intended to be something to be *seen of men*

Mat 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mat 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men...

2. Some attempt to resolve this dilemma by worshipping only in private

Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret...

3. Yet the Bible commands us to participate in public worship with the church

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

4. The answer: It is right to worship in church—But keep the show out of the church

B. Doctrinal truth really matters

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1. The true church of God is where the truth is supported and maintained

1Ti 3:15 ...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2. Paul had a sense of urgency that ‘truth really matters’

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Gal 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ...

Gal 1:9 ...If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Gal 5:12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

II. What is truth?

2Ti 1:8 ...the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Joh 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Joh 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

III. The Lord's church is to carry on the Lord's Supper until the Lord comes back

1Co 11:23 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:

1Co 11:24 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.

1Co 11:25 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.

1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

IV. Communion (*common-union*) is to "shew the Lord's death till he come" (1Co 11:26)

A. Communion was originally for the twelve (as opposed to the multitudes)

Mat 26:20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

B. Communion was later for the church (based on the individual's decision to join)

Act 2:41 Then they that **gladly received** his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in **breaking of bread**, and in prayers.

C. Divisions and heresies can invalidate a communion (*common-union*) service

1Co 11:17 ...I praise *you* not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.

1Co 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be **divisions among you**; and I partly believe it.

1Co 11:19 For there must be also **heresies among you**, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

1Co 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, *this* is not to eat the Lord's supper.

—Grounds that make denomination divisions are likewise '*common-union*' distinctions

—Few believe in God's sovereignty—Jesus' success—and the Spirit's independence

—How many 'churches' today truly *shew the Lord's death* in its true accomplishment?

D. We are to preach to the world—But not to declare '*common-union*' with the world

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Tit 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Gal 5:12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

1Co 5:11 ...with such an one no not to eat.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

2Th 3:15 Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

E. The Bible declares that it is a serious thing to partake of communion ‘unworthily’

1Co 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, **ye do shew the Lord's death** till he come.

1Co 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

1Co 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body**.

1Co 11:30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

- It is wrong to *shew the Lord's death* without *discerning* (understanding) His death
- God's judgment in these things had caused some to be sick—And some even to die
- The church (and each person) is to judge in this—So as not to be judged by God

F. PBs do not claim to be better than others—(We teach against the idea of bigotry)

—We simply claim a ‘*common-union*’ in our belief in salvation by grace alone

V. Feet washing

A. Matthew's account

Mat 26:20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

Mat 26:21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Mat 26:22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

Mat 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

B. Luke's account

Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Luk 22:21 But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me *is* with me on the table.

Luk 22:23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

Luk 22:24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

Luk 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Luk 22:26 But ye *shall* not *be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

Luk 22:27 For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luk 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Luk 22:29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

Luk 22:30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

C. John's account

Joh 13:4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

Joh 13:5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Joh 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

Joh 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, **Know ye what I have done to you?**

Joh 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am.

Joh 13:14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; **ye also ought to wash one another's feet.**

Joh 13:15 For I **have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**

Joh 13:16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The servant is not greater than his lord**; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

Joh 13:17 **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**