

Text: Various

Title: Lord's Table: Remembering Together

Truth: The Bible emphasizes the remembrance of the Table.

Date/Location: Sunday June 1, 2025 at FBC

Hymns

#392 Rock of Ages

#276 Jesus Paid It All

#111 And Can It Be

#297 Are You Washed in the Blood?

Introduction

1 Cor. 11:24-25 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Luke 22:19 - And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

The word means a reminder or remembrance of something.

I. Review about Remembrance

A. We remember Christ primarily, not our sins or sinfulness. The OT saint who was reminded of their sins every year because of the need for repeated animal sacrifices. And we do remember the need we have of Christ because we are sinners.

It is miserable if you remember your sin first, or only think of your sin, and do not remember the way that sin can be cared for through Jesus Christ. Many people wallow in guilt or depression because of sin. Those results are part of sin's natural consequence. A Christian person who falls into self-centered thinking can suffer a similar morbid effect. Thinking first about sin and guilt and all may focus the person's attention on what HE or SHE can do to fix the sin, to "repent hard enough" or "feel guilty enough" to (effectively) atone for sin. But that is impossible. Our minds, eyes, thoughts, devotion must look to Christ.

We are a forgetful people and need remembrance!

B. Remembering Christ includes calling to mind His person and work and its significance for you. You remember what He did, right? He humbled Himself from heaven's glory to earth's misery. He lowered himself to live with sinners and put up with their unbelief. He humiliated himself to die

on a cross like an awful criminal. He was ‘separated’ from the Father because of the penalty of sin. He bore the sins of the world. He was laid in a borrowed tomb.

Remembering is active mental work. We do not just allow the thought of Christ to flit across our mind. We meditate on it. We ponder it. This will inevitably lead to praise and thanksgiving to God and a godly kind of humility that recognizes our bankruptcy before God.

- C. Is remembering *externally* a sufficient memorial to what He has done? If we participate here at the Table once a month, or perhaps once in a while, but we do not live in a way that shows Christ at work in us, what kind of memorial is this Table? Isn’t that like talking the talk but not walking the walk? This ordinance we do, if done rotely, externally, ritualistically would be the like the stench of the sacrifices of OT Israel after they had departed from God (Isaiah 1:11-16, Jer. 6:20, 1 Samuel 15:22, Amos 5:22). God would be highly displeased with it.

II. Remembering the Lord Together, as a Church

Now, I would like to show you from the Bible how God considers His church to be a body and how essential it is for *us* to look at it that way. We remember together, worship and serve together, as a corporate entity, not just a gathering of individualistic persons. Ignoring this truth displeases God.

- A. We remember corporately because it not just that Christ died for ME and I’m thankful for ME and MY sins are gone. He died for US and WE are one in Christ and OUR sins are gone. We have the pleasant experience of fellowship together because of Him.
- B. We care for our corporate existence, our “together” life, because to not do so is dangerous. The Corinthian church did not esteem the entire body of Christ and thus experienced chastisement by the Lord. In 1 Cor. 11 Paul rebukes them for divisions, factions, and eating ahead of others and drinking to drunkenness.
- C. Paul repeatedly mentions that the church “comes together” for the Lord’s Table (11:17, 18, 20, 33). The Supper is an ordinance, a service of the gathered church, not an individual-thing. Baptism is similar.
- D. In chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians, the Bible teaches us that the body is one and has many members. The unity of the body with its diversity of gifts and functions is paramount to God’s work. The attitude of “I am not of the body” (12:15) or the attitude of “I have no need of you” (12:21) are

quite distasteful. You are a critical part of the body of Christ. And every part, even the weak ones, are necessary.

Several times over the years I have heard from people (or about people elsewhere) that they believe “I do not fit in this church. I’m single, or I’m divorced, or I’m young, or I do not have children, or I’m not well off, or I am not very educated.” I suppose the list could go on. Those feelings are just that—feelings. They are not true, not in this church and they are not supposed to be true in any church. And if there is some truth that someone else looks down upon a person for those reasons, that needs to stop immediately.

Take the weak members, for example, or those you believe to be weak. You may despise them or judge them (like Romans 14:3). But they are a vital part of the body and important to your growth. If you ignore them, you do so at the peril of your own maturity and sanctification, and the frown of God. You need them as much as they need you. Without them, you miss something in your growth. Without you, they miss something in their growth. Without the old, you miss the wisdom God has given them over the years. Without the young, you miss the energy and excitement that can be in serving God. Without the blue collar, or white collar, or single, or... Just take some time to imagine how God puts together the entire body church so that it functions well.

The body is a unity, and it needs its members. When members die or leave or are added, it must adapt. Gifts come and go, and this necessitates a change in the ministry of the church because of gifts that are new, or that are missing.

A general principle is this: if we do not look at things like God does, we are looking at them with a degree of falseness or wrong perception. Truth is what corresponds to how God has made things, how God sees things. If we do not look at the church family with the eye that God does, we have a wrong view of the church.

E. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul teaches us the imperative of love. We must be immersed in love for one another as a body. You can do all kinds of good works, and have your family ducks in a row, and have a few friends in the church, but if you do not love your church family, those closest to you, then Paul flat-out says we are nothing. I know it does me well to stop and think if my attitude and actions toward someone are borne out of love for that person, or spite, or frustration, or vengeance, or anger.

F. The one-another commands remind us of our responsibilities one to another. Consider them in light of our Lord’s Table remembrance:

1. Pray for one another (James 5:16)
2. Confess to one another (James 5:16)
3. Love one another (John 13:34 (2x), John 13:35, 15:12, 15:17; Rom. 12:10; 13:8; 1 John 3:11, 3:23; 4:7, 4:11-12, 2 John 5; 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8; 2 Thess. 1:3, 4:9)
4. Show preference to one another (Rom. 12:10)
5. Share fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)
6. Be humble toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)
7. Serve one another (1 Peter 4:10)
8. Be hospitable toward one another (1 Peter 4:9)
9. Spur one another on toward love and good works (Heb. 10:24)
10. Exhort/encourage one another (Heb. 3:13, 10:25)
11. Pursue good for one another (1 Thess 5:15)
12. Be at peace with one another (1 Thess 5:13)
13. Encourage and build up one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
14. Comfort one another (1 Thess. 4:18)
15. Teach and admonish one another in songs based on the word of Christ (Col. 3:16)
16. Bear with one another and forgive one another (Col. 3:13, Eph. 4:2)
17. Regard others as more important than yourself (Col. 2:3)
18. Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21, 22ff show how)
19. Speak to one another in song (Eph. 5:19)
20. Be kind to one another and forgiving each other (Eph. 4:32)
21. Recognize that we are members of one another (Eph. 4:25)
22. Through love serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
23. Greet one another (Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12, 1 Peter 5:14)
24. Exercise mutual care one for another (1 Cor. 12:25)
25. Wait for one another (1 Cor. 11:33)
26. Admonish one another (Rom 15:14)
27. Accept/receive one another (Rom. 15:7)
28. Be of the same mind with one another (Rom. 12:16, 15:5)
29. Pursue peace and building up of one another (Rom. 14:19)
30. Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
31. Speak truth to one another (Zechariah 8:16)

Conclusion

So let us *remember* the Lord and let us do so with proper recognition of our place and function in the body of Christ, the church. We need to have the mind of Christ about the church members and our place *together* in the ministry.

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