

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of the Christian life, but rather they are sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by which he works in us, and not only quickens, but also strengthens and confirms our Faith in him. There are two Sacraments ordained by Christ Jesus in the Gospel, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord (Holy Communion).

The Sacraments were not ordained by Christ to be gazed upon, but that we should actually use them. The Supper of the Lord (Holy Communion) is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves; but rather is a Sacrament of our Redemption by Christ's death. The Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ. The Romish doctrine of transubstantiation (or the change of the substance of Bread and Wine) in the Supper of the Lord, is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, and overthrows the nature of a Sacrament, and has given occasion to many superstitions. The Body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten, in the Supper, only after an heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means by which the Body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is Faith.

A Teaching On Holy Communion From Pastor Bill's Course: The Church Throughout The Ages

Paul the Apostle only makes one direct quote of Jesus in all his writings.

"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. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." 1 Corinthians 11:24-26.

Highlighted here is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is replacing the Passover.

This will be done in remembrance of Jesus:

A) His sacrifice: My Body, My Blood.

B) Blessing of God: This cup is the New Testament or New Covenant fulfilling Jeremiah 31:31-34.

C) Promise: Their iniquity will be forgiven, and remembrance of sin removed. This cup is the New Testament in my blood.

D) Jesus is establishing a sacrament: a sign with a message.

E) Sign: bread and wine. It is partaking, eating, drinking, nourishment, and strength.

EUCCHARISTIC:

This is a Greek word meaning thanksgiving. It came into use during the 3rd century.

LORD'S SUPPER: IS THE BIBLICAL TERM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Choice of Thomas Cranmer (The English Reformer)

Holy Communion was a notable and significant part of the Reformation. It's an expression of a holy communion with each other and our Saviour. No longer are the people watching something mysterious in the Latin language. They are partaking as Paul had instructed the Church.

There are five things that take place at the Lord's Table:

- 1) Repentance
- 2) Faith
- 3) Obedience
- 4) Praise
- 5) Thanksgiving

This isn't a celebration of the Mass. That idea may have crept back into the minds of some. However, it's important to know why it isn't a Mass.

There are three distinctions:

- 1) Transubstantiation: the change of the substance of bread and wine to flesh and blood of Jesus. This is repugnant to the plain teaching of Scripture and has given occasion to many superstitions.
- 2) It was viewed as a sacrifice to God that contributed to the putting away of sins. The mass was and is a sacrifice. The priest lifts up the transubstantiated bread and wine and somehow it becomes one with Jesus at the cross. It represents a joining with the Saviour, the sacrifice that puts away sin. The reformers brought it back to a remembrance of Christ. (This do in remembrance of me).
- 3) There was no participation by the congregation. The reformers established the truth of a personal Christ, a communion with Christ, He is present, in our hearts and midst.

The Reality of a True Response to the Gospel

The reformer, Thomas Cranmer gave us the master stroke of simplicity. This is so obvious one would wonder how it could have been neglected for so long.

In the Holy Communion he built a response to the Gospel by building a sequence of three things:

- 1) Sin detected & acknowledged.
- 2) Pardon proclaimed & affirmed.
- 3) Faith receiving the pardon and rejoicing in its possession.

The gospel is preached in the Holy Communion: Sin - Mercy – Faith

This Do in Remembrance of Me

Look back - to Calvary.

Look in - to our hearts, examine.

Look up - to Jesus our mediator.

Look around – to Church believers who are loved, forgiven, and in fellowship.

Look ahead – to proclaim Jesus is coming again, celebrate.