CHURCH OF PRAYER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

DOCTRINAL STUDIES – FOUNDATRIONAL TEACHING

LESSON 10: COMMUNION

CLASS NOTES

SUMMARY:

In the New Testament the Greek word for communion is *koinonia*; it means fellowship, sharing, participation, and contribution.[[1]](#footnote-1) In koinonia, the individual shares in a common intimate bond in fellowship with one another as children of God.

In Acts 2:42, we see koinonia being experienced by those who were being added to the church: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

To explore the history of koinonia, let’s begin by looking at the Scriptures in Matthew 26:26, where Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper. The Passover celebration or the Last Supper was the last meal that Christ shared with His disciple before His death. It was also the setting in which He chose to transform the meaning of the cup and bread into New Covenant thought. Now receiving the cup is a participation in the blood of Christ, and the breaking of bread is a participation in His body.[[2]](#footnote-2)

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessedand broke *it,* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” (Matthew 26:26)

“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;” (Luke 22:17)

“And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark%2014:24&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24775a" \o "See footnote a)] covenant, which is shed for many.” (Mark 14:24)

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

According to John’s gospel in chapter 6, it wasn’t easy for Jesus to convey the new covenant to the people, especially the Jews. They were still reminiscing about the bread their forefathers ate in which Jesus aptly reminds them that, “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead” (John 6:49). They simply could not grasp His teaching that He was the bread of life, who had come down from heaven. After all, they knew His parents, Mary and Joseph, so how could He possibly come from heaven? With no spiritual understanding of Jesus’ desire to koinonia with them or what Jesus was talking about when He said, “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day”(v54), the Jews chose to reject Him rather than ask for wisdom, while many of His disciples “went back and walked with Him no more” (v66).

Jesus still wants to have communion with us and with every individual added to the body of Christ. When you koinonia with someone, you are forming a close, intimate bond.

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 10:25

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

**SCRIPTURES:**

**Read 1 Peter 2:24**: We need to be reminded of what Jesus did for us in order to have fellowship with us.

**Read 1 John 1:6-7:** Fellowship with Christ is not something that we can fake. Sure, our words might say one thing while our actions demonstrate something different, but God, who knows all things and searches our hearts, knows the truth.

**Read Hebrews 9:22:** From the days of the Old Testament, the shedding of blood was considered a purifier. Only the shedding of Jesus’ blood produced the remission of our sins which in turn, granted us the right to be a part of God’s family. (See Lev 5:11-13 to see when bloodless sacrifices were offered)

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-26:** Communion is a time for us to come together in unity and in remembrance of the Lord Jesus. Continuing in the Lord’s Supper was not something that Paul took lightly. In fact, he rebukes the church of Corinth for their misconduct at the Lord’s Supper rather than praise them for the purpose in which it was sustained: to acknowledge and give testimony to the triumphant work of the Cross.

**Read 1 Corinthian 11:26-34:** We need to carefully examine ourselves before partaking in communion. If we eat and drink in an unworthy manner, the Scriptures make it very clear that we subject ourselves to judgment, weakness, sickness, and even death.

**LIFE APPLICATION:**

You are invited to have dinner with your spouse’s family. Everyone orders their food together, and the food arrives at the table together. You are famished and waiting for everyone to stop talking and say the blessing is too much for you to bear. Do you:

1. Dig in and when they start praying, you stop and join in.
2. Continue eating and say Amen when they are done
3. Apologize for not being able to wait, then say your own grace before you start eating
4. Wait patiently for everyone so you can pray and eat together.

After choosing your option, briefly explain your actions.

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DOCTRINAL STUDIES – FONDATIONAL TEACHING

**LESSON 10: COMMUNION**

**HOMEWORK**

**MONDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25.**
* Read **Matthew 26:26–30** and answer the following:
	+ What does the word *Koinonia* mean? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ What does the bread symbolize? (v26) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ What does the wine symbolize? (v28)

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* Who did Jesus intend to drink from the cup? (v27) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Where and with whom will Jesus drink of the fruit of the vine again? (v29)

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**TUESDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25.**
* Read **John 13: 18-20** and answer the following:
	+ **Read John 13:1-17.** In what manner did Jesus have Koinonia with His disciples? (v2 and v5 and v12)

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According to the Scripture that had to be fulfilled, in what setting would Jesus’ betrayer be identified? (v18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was the common thread that Jesus wanted people to grab hold of? (John 6:29 and John 13:19) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In reviewing the definition for koinonia, what is so significant about verse 20?

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**WEDNESDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25.**
* Why is it important to fellowship with other believers? Using a study reference such as a concordance or the internet, support our answer with Scriptures.

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* Why is it important for us to take communion? Using a study reference such as a concordance or the internet, support our answer with Scriptures.

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# THURSDAY:

* Study your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25.**
* Read **Exodus 12:1-28**. Briefly explain what occurred during the Passover.

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* Briefly explain how the Passover in the Old Testament (Exodus 12) still relates to us today in the New Testament (**1 Corinthians verse 7**).

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**FRIDAY:**

* Study your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25.**
* Answer the following two questions pertaining to your memory verse.
	+ How can you use the memory verse scripture in your daily walk?

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* + How can you use the memory verse scripture to teach others God’s Word?

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**SATURDAY:**

* Write your memory verse **Hebrew 10:25** by memory.

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* Study your notes in preparation for your test tomorrow.
1. Koinonia. http://en.wikipedia.org [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Spirit-Filled Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-2)