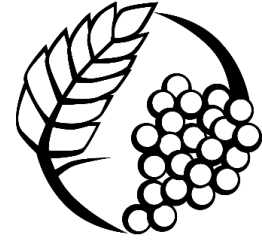


TAKE AND EAT



The Power of the Lord's Supper

Divine Power

Isaiah 43:25

“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

Mark 2:7

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Matthew 26:28

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

1 John 4:8

God is love.

John 13:35

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Corinthians 10:17

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

THE HYPOSTATIC UNION OF THE NATURES OF CHRIST

The two distinct natures of Christ (his divinity and his humanity) are united in one person without confusion or division of either nature.

Therefore, with the body and blood of Christ in Communion (his humanity), God (his divinity) is fully present with his almighty power to deliver forgiveness!

Sacramental Power

1 Corinthians 1:21

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 3:5,7

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. . . . So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 4:1

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.

Mark 14:22-25

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:16

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

MAGICAL VS. SUPERNATURAL

The Lord’s Supper is neither an illusion nor a human-produced miracle. Instead, this tangible meal delivers real blessings to real people by God’s almighty power.

5. God has chosen to gift us with his almighty, forgiving power in a sacramental way (simple and tangible). Explain the beauty of the way God set this up for us. Which do you tend to see more in the Lord’s Supper: simple and tangible, or almighty forgiving power?
6. Is Communion changed at all if it’s given by someone who isn’t a pastor? At what times might it be appropriate or appreciated to have a non-pastor administer Communion?

Certainty-giving Power

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

Romans 8:1-3

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

7. At what times do our hearts need the certainty the Lord's Supper offers?

8. Think of a time Communion was especially impactful for you because of the powerful certainty it gave you in that moment. What certainty did it give you?