

Remnant Life Church
July 12, 2015
The Four Looks of Communion
I Corinthians 11:23-32

What does Communion mean?

- Virtually every time the Bible mentions the Lord's Supper it is in conjunction with the word covenant
- Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant..." (**I Cor 11:25**)
- What is a covenant?
 - It is a pledge or a guaranteed agreement based on trust
 - Sometimes called a testament
 - The word covenant literally means to cover – (to cover a bill means to pay for it)
 - In legal terms it is similar to a contractual agreement, but the depth of the covenant is much more
 - Sometimes a covenant is a commitment that affects others like a 'last will and testament'
- The covenants between God and man were always initiated by God demonstrating desire and great love for us
 1. The Adamic covenant – He will provide a way for us to return to Him and forever put a protective gulf between satan and us, His creation (**Gen 3**)
 2. The Noahic covenant – He promised first to protect Noah and his family from judgement ensuring that His creation would survive and also promised never to again destroy the world with a flood (**Gen 8-9**)
 3. The Abrahamic covenant – promising to be the Father of His chosen people for all time and the father of many nations (**Gen 15; 17**)
 4. The Mosaic covenant – a renewal of His covenant with Abraham and the giving of the law (**Ex 19-20**)
 5. The Davidic covenant – promising David that if he and his family would love and obey God they would rule over Israel forever (**2 Sam 7**)
 6. The New covenant – God sends His Son Jesus to die for us as the final sacrifice forever sealing the blood oath that was required for our sins
- Why did there need to be a sacrifice?
 - Because there is a consequence or penalty for sin (**Rom 6:23**)
 - The animal sacrifices of the OT were given so that the justice of God might be satisfied
 - Jesus was the final sacrifice making the offering of animal sacrifices for us today unnecessary
 - It was a NEW covenant
- There are 4 directions that we should look whenever we approach the communion table

1. We look back

- **I Cor 11:26** Paul writes that Jesus said we “proclaim the Lord’s death” or remember it until He returns again.
- That remembrance begins at the cross
 - # Jesus gave His life for us
 - # While we were still sinners He did this for us (**Rom 5:8**)
- That sacrifice and gift of life is for all who will believe and put their faith in Him

2. We look within

- That time before we come to the communion table is a time for reflection
- If there is sin we must confess it
- If there is anger against someone else we must forgive
- If there is pride in our hearts we must be humbled
- **I Cor 11:27-30**
- Communion is not reserved in order to be exclusive; it is offered and intended for self-evaluation and examination

3. We look around

- As we should be aware of the needs of others we should give thanks for those God has placed in our lives (**I Cor 10:17**)
- God did not create us to be alone but to gather strength from one another
- **Ecc 4:9-12** - *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*
- We learn, we grow, we gain strength, we are challenged, we are encouraged by one another

4. We look ahead

- When we participate in communion together we are remembering all that He did “until He comes.” (**I Cor 11:26**)
- Are we looking ahead with the anticipation of joy or the anxiety of fear?
- If you have acknowledged Him as your Lord and Savior you have a “great reward” waiting for you
- But until that time the hope of the future should never cloud the importance of who and what God has called us to be right now

• If begins with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

- You must know without a shadow of a doubt that your life belongs to Jesus that you have invited Him to live in your heart as Lord of your life
- It is not about what you do, how you act, what you give – those will change on the outside as you change on the inside
- Who is the Lord and Master of your life this morning?