

“ON THE GLORY & PRACTICE OF COMMUNION”
EXODUS 24:1-11 & MATTHEW 26:26-29
SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Define and explain the following four views on the nature of communion (if you can't remember just search for the following terms on Google): (a) The Catholic View, Transubstantiation, (b) The Lutheran View [Martin Luther], Consubstantiation or Sacramental Union, (c) The Reformed View [John Calvin], Real Presence, and (d) The Protestant View [Ulrich Zwingli], mere symbol.
2. Pastor Charlie said that the first two of these views take the word “is” in Matthew 26:26-29 literally and that Glory of Christ therefore rejects both of these views. Read Exodus 24:1-11, Leviticus 17:11, and Matthew 26:26-29 and then explain why this is so.
3. What is the main difference between the old covenant and the new covenant? How are they similar? How are they different? (Consult Hebrews 9:11-28 & Matthew 5:17-20 as you're formulating your answer.)
4. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 very carefully and identify at least three things Christ accomplished on the cross.
5. One of the things Christ accomplished on the cross was the formation of a people of God (Eph. 2:18-22). Read Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 1 Peter 2:9-10, and 1 Corinthians 10:14-17 to strengthen your understanding of this truth and how communion is meant to symbolize and celebrate this truth.
6. The early church, by and large, included four main elements in their celebration of communion: (a) the Lord's Supper which celebrated our union with Christ, (b) an “agape meal” which celebrated our union with one another in Christ, (c) the confession of sins and the fresh offering of the self to God in Christ, and (4) an offering for the poor out of gratitude to God. Do you see why it's a good and wise thing to incorporate these elements into our celebration of communion at Glory of Christ?
7. In the coming months how will you work to prepare yourself and your family for communion Sundays?