

Communion Joins Us...

Delivered: December 24, 2023

Scriptures: [2 Peter 1.3-4](#), [1 Cor 10.18](#)

Communion Joins Us to Divine Life

Peter writes in [2 Peter 1.3-4](#):

"His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness...He has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature."

The word that Peter uses that we translate "partakers" is koinonia. Koinonia is the same word that we translate communion. As we commune with Him and share in His body and blood we receive of His "divine nature". The exchange that takes place in communion is exceedingly great, so much so, that Jesus says in [John 6.53](#) that if we do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, we have no life in us at all. Through koinonia, through communion, through fellowship with His torn flesh and shed blood, He gives us divine life...life that goes on forever; "He who eats this bread will live forever" ([v58](#)).

Communion Joins Us To the Cross

Paul writes in [1 Corinthians 10.18](#),

"Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?"

Paul understood that the altar was a place of covenant. And the meal shared after the sacrifice was a celebration of union with the god of that altar. Paul says if you eat of the sacrifice you receive from the altar, and you announce to those you eat with that you are one with them just as you are one with the god of their altar.

Communion Join Us Together As Family

In communion we are celebrating a sacrifice that breaks down every racial barrier, every blood barrier, every class barrier that man has erected to keep out those who are different. The Lamb of God tore down the dividing wall of hostility and the celebration of that sacrifice now joins us in communion to His body and blood...where everything is one. All things are summed up and gathered together in Christ.

Communion Joins Us to the Spiritual Realm

Daniel had no problem with his name being changed to a name that represented the pagan gods of Babylon ([Daniel 1.7](#)). He had no problem going to school for 3 years to learn about Babylonian culture that had destroyed the culture of God's people in Jerusalem ([Daniel 1.5](#)). But when it came to eating from the king's table, that's where he drew the line,

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank ([Daniel 1.8](#)).

There is something about the table that joins us to the realm of the Spirit.

Communion Joins Us to Simply Profound Mystery

There are great mysteries in this gospel of ours. There are profoundly deep things that even angels cannot fathom. But in the center is a fact so simple that its best ritual is marked by bread and wine. God uses common simple things as channels of His revelation. We bring bread and wine and get back Christ. Jesus is present at His table.

The table is the central act of Christian worship because it expresses, and makes effective, our gospel. The meaning of the table is inexhaustible. It transcends all our efforts to explain or interpret. We never come to the end of the mystery of bread and wine. One part of the church will see one aspect of the table and another will see something else; but the truth, the glory, and the depth of the table is a mystery beyond us all.

Let's move beyond mere symbolism and embrace the mystery of communion;

where bread is flesh and wine is blood,
where servants are kings and crosses are thrones,
where water is living and wind is Spirit,
where impossible is real and what is real is unseen and eternal,
where God’s people, gathered around a table in faith gather around Christ
Himself.

Call us up into the mystery, O God, where trust and wonder and love are all, and where the greatest and most real things can never be proven...only believed.