

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The ‘UNION’ in Communion”

1 Corinthians 10:16-18

FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 3, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week as we again approach The Lord’s Table we want to return to our mini-series on The Lord’s Supper with message #5 pertaining to this Sacrament. We specifically would like to look at the “union” that is displayed at The Table between Christ and His Church and also between the people of God among themselves as brothers and sisters. Remember to review our other lessons in this series for a continuing, and complete picture of The Lord’s Supper (Communion). Read **1 Corinthians 10:16-18**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and to help you prepare to come before His table this Lord’s Day.

MONDAY –To begin with, I want us to see that the verses we are studying this week come from a portion of Scripture where Paul is addressing Idolatry. It is in his discussion that he alludes to The Lord’s Table to make a point by way of illustration. I want you to see this passage is not primarily on the subject of The Lord’s Supper but these verses do deal with it and help explain what goes on at The Table. Notice that Paul uses the Word “*communion*” or “*sharing*” or “*fellowship*” or “*participation*” depending on your translation. The Greek word is “*koinonia*” which means all of those things and speaks to a shared, joint, participating fellowship. This is the “union” in communion. Read **1John 1:1-7** where *koinonia* is used 3 times explaining the union with God as believers made possible through the death of Jesus for our sins.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Praise God for the “union” we can have with Him given by His great grace through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Mon							
Tue							
Wed							
Thu							
Fri							
Sat							

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

TUESDAY –When Paul says, “*The cup of blessing...*”, and “*...the bread that we break...*” he is speaking of the cup and bread of the Passover feast. This is the cup and bread the Lord Jesus used while He was celebrating the Passover with His disciples when He instituted The Lord’s Supper. Paul says we “*...share...*” in the blood and body of Christ when we participate in this Sacrament. We “*have communion*”, and share, participate, and have partnership with Jesus Christ at The Table. The Holy Spirit uses the symbols of the Sacrament (bread and wine) to help us see physically the sacrifice that was made for us to spiritually have communion and union with Christ. We are reminded of His great payment for our sin and by the work of The Spirit in our lives as His children we now commune and feed on Jesus. Read more of our fellowship in **1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 2:1**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you be mindful of the great truth that we have shared fellowship with the Father, Son, and The Spirit as believers.

WEDNESDAY –In verse 17 Paul moves on to tell us that we also have communion and shared fellowship with all true believers who partake at The Table with us. He says that although we are “*many*” we are actually “*one bread*” and “*one body*” for we “*all partake of that one bread*”. He is not saying that all those who merely partake of the Lord’s Supper are unified and one body. It is all those who by faith believe and actually have “*eaten and drank*” (**John 6:43-58**) of Christ by faith that are actually united. It is because we partake of “*that one bread*” (Christ) we are one. We find our union together by finding our union with Christ. That is the only source of true unity. Read **Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 6:17, 19-20, 12:13**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God that we can be unified with brothers and sisters who can help us along in this life. Praise Him for making it possible.

THURSDAY –In verse 18 Paul uses an illustration from the Old Testament regarding sacrifices. All those who ate of the sacrifice identified with it and showed their obedience toward God in this act of worship (**Leviticus 7:15-18, 22:29-30**). Those who participated and ate of the sacrifice were the ones who identified themselves as being united with God and with each other. We as believers gather together around The Lord’s Table and partake of it to proclaim Jesus death and celebrate the shared life we have with Him and with each other. Read **Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:4-6**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you to be more aware, concerned, and serving toward the other parts of His and “your” body.

FRIDAY –This entire picture of “union” we find in The Lord’s Table is so very foreign to most professing believers. The very fact that we are one body requires that certain things must take place within the local church (body) that go beyond the Lord’s Supper. Church discipline is a huge part of this entire truth of union and communion. There must be accountability and admonishment of sin and sin must be dealt with within the professing body for the body to remain healthy. We also find in the New Testament that **all** the things that go into “church life” were being participated in by those who said they were followers of Jesus. An example of this would be that in Scripture, true believers were saved, baptized, and joined (membership) to the local body. Anything less was foreign to the Apostles doctrine. Today we find there are a lot of “believers” who pick and choose their level of “union”. Read **Matthew 18: 15-20, Acts 2:40-47**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Pray that you would be faithful to Scripture and be a unified and participating member of the local body.

SATURDAY –This week we have tried to get an overview of this matter of union with Christ and with each other and what that all means. There is much more we could say on this matter but I want to leave us with focusing on this great reality and how we fit into it personally. Examine yourself as we prepare to come to The Lord’s Table tomorrow. Are you a genuine believer? Have you by faith come to Christ and are you embracing Jesus Christ and His gospel and feeding on Him right NOW? Are you obedient to His Word in the areas of union and “shared life” we see Scripture tell us we are to be doing? Do business with God today by coming before Him with an open, sincere, contrite and longing heart. Read **1 Corinthians 10:1-6**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God by His grace to help you live a life that is full of sweet fellowship and union with Him and all of His true body.