

#### 4. To Experience Intimate Fellowship

Paul states: *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? For we being many are one loaf and one body; for we are all partakers of that one loaf” (1 Corinthians 10:16, 17).*

Communion is genuine fellowship. It is a joint participation, a sharing. There is of course, what is called the objective truth, that totally apart from the observance of the Lord's Supper, the believer participates in the merits or benefits of the body and blood of Christ. But in the verses above, there is intended, that in the observance of the Lord's Supper, a special relational oneness is experienced in fellowship with Christ and one another.

This is what I wanted to focus on. Though we may travel far away, we are still one together in spirit and love. All because we are related in Christ. In the Old Testament God met the people over ‘the lid’ of the Ark of the Covenant. It was called the ‘mercy seat’ (Leviticus 16:2). The work of Jesus on the cross is the New Covenant ‘mercy seat’ (Hebrews 9). As Christians we can pray for each other. Prayer is only possible through Christ and his mercy seat. By faith in Christ and in prayer we come together as one.

As Charles Wesley wrote in his Hymn called

##### ‘The Throne of Grace’

*There is a place where spirits blend,  
And friend holds fellowship with friend,  
Though sundered far by faith we meet  
Around one common mercy-seat*

How appropriate it is that, as we partake of this

tangible reminder of the infinite love of Christ for us, demonstrated by the “breaking” of His body and the pouring out of His life's blood, we should examine ourselves as to how deeply we have appreciated this and how consistently our conduct has shown our gratitude for it.

What solemn vows we should make at such a time, and how earnestly we should pray for grace to fulfil such vows! On such an occasion it would surely be appropriate to join in singing Elizabeth Prentiss's hymn:

More love to Thee, O Christ,  
More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee

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**WE ARE ONE**



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# We Are One

John 17:22

It is a wonderful thing to realise that as members of the family of Christ, we are one. We are united together in Christ.

Christ's death on the cross took away our sins and united us to God. Our faith in him and His work makes Christ and the cross real in our lives as we are joined to him. Then, "*We who are many, are one*" (1Corinthians 10:17).

But we often forget this. That's why Jesus told us to remember him. "*This do in remembrance of me.*" (Luke 22:19, 1Cor. 11: 24, 25)

As Charles Spurgeon a Baptist pastor wrote in 1850: "Jesus said, "*Do this in remembrance of me*". It seems then, that Christians may forget Christ! There could be no need for this loving exhortation, if there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous. How true this is proved in our lives. It is well confirmed in our experience, not as a possibility, but as a lamentable fact.

It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the dying Lamb, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Saviour. But, startling evidence is too apparent to the eye, to allow us to deny the crime.

Forget him who never forgot us! Forget him who poured his blood forth for our sins! Forget him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us. He whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is like a

visitor. The cross, where you would think that memory would linger, is often desecrated by the busy feet of forgetfulness.

Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus?

Some other person steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of the Lord upon whom your affection ought to be set. Some earthly business engrosses your attention when you should fix your eye steadily upon the cross.

It is the incessant turmoil of the world and the constant attraction of earthly things, which takes away the soul from devotion to Christ.

While memory so often preserves a poisonous thought, it suffers the love of Jesus to wither.

Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved, and, whatever else we let slip, let us hold fast to him." - Charles Spurgeon

In order to keep the memory of Jesus alive in our minds we must understand more about His work on the cross which is the basis of our oneness. It was provided through the death of Christ on the cross, which we celebrate when we participate in the Lord's Supper.

So what is the **BASIC MEANING AND PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

## 1. To be a Memorial of Christ

The basic meaning of the Supper is expressed in the words: "*This do in remembrance of me.*" It is the only reason given in Scripture for ob-

serving the Supper. The Scripture says nothing about a sacrament or the conferring of grace or the forgiveness of sins through the observance of Holy Communion.

There are various ways of remembering Christ, or of remembering any other person or thing. People often go through an old file or trunk and see something that vividly restores the memory of some past experience. A photo graph of an absent or departed loved one serves the same purpose.

There is nothing mysterious, magical, or supernatural about such memorials, and neither is there about the Lord's Supper. The only thing supernatural about it is the Person who is to be remembered.

## 2. To Proclaim the Lord's Death

The Supper is not only a memorial of Christ personally, but a memorial of His death for our sins. There is nothing more important in the preaching of the gospel of Christ than the fact of His redeeming death. And Paul says, "*As often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you show (or declare) the Lord's death until He comes*" (1Corinthians 11: 26).

It is self-evident that His death is central in the observance, as witnessed by the symbols of His broken body and poured out blood.

## 3. To Remember the Lord's Return

This fact is seen in the words, "till he come" (1Corinthians 11: 26). Christ will soon return to take us to Heaven. In the meantime, we drink of the cup to remember Him until He comes. When we are with Christ in heaven, there will be no need of a memorial.