

“Communion Thoughts”

This morning I want to share a word that has been on my mind. It is a word that we use to refer to at this time in our service. That word is “communion”. If you’re like me, sometimes we use terms and repeat terms, maybe in the right context but with only a limited understanding of the meaning.

We come to this time in our service to partake of, or have communion. We also refer to this time of memorial as the Lord’s Supper. I/we assume that all in our presence understand these words. I remember hearing a communion meditation on the word “communion” when I was just a young person, maybe a teenager, that has really helped me think about the meaning, the value and emphasis on this time.

This word communion is used in some translations and synonymous words are used in other translation.

Three of the synonymous words for Communion are sharing, participation, and fellowship. As I read a few verses you will likely notice in your translation how these words are used interchangeably.

1 Corinthians 10:14-17

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion(sharing) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion(sharing) of the body of Christ? For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion(fellowship) has light with darkness?

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1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, just as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

These words all reflect a closeness in relationship, a unity with our Savior that extends far beyond this time of our worship service. However, this is a special and unique time of communion. It is a time that we not only fellowship with our Lord, but we do this with unity of spirit as we commune with one another at this time. Even though we have separate cups of juice and separate pieces of unleavened bread, we partake, we fellowship, we commune with unity.

And as I have summarized this, I have to share another scripture that I view as the recipe for a healthy church, and 50% of the ingredients are reflective of this very time.

Acts 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The fellowship mentioned here is the same word that we see as communion in I Corinthians 10. There are 4 items identified here in Acts that was the recipe for the church from its infancy, that we maintain yet today. We are here at this time in fellowship, in communion, to break the bread, the Lord's Supper together.

As we partake of these emblems here today, let us understand that we are in a unified fellowship with our Savior and one another, that we participate in this time of communion while we partake of the Lord's Supper.

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Let's pray together:

Our Father in Heaven, thank you for this quiet time right now, to just reflect on Jesus Christ, his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is through these events that we have forgiveness of sins and hope of life eternal. Please bless this time of fellowship and communion with you and with each other as we partake of the juice and bread today. Bless these emblems and Lord, forgive us of our sins,
In Jesus name, Amen.