

A COMMUNION IN THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. (King James Version)

You will note that I am sharing the words of 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 with you from the King James Version. I do this because in this version the translators chose to translate the Greek word koinonia with the English word communion. The more modern translations have chosen to use the English words fellowship or participation. Whichever Bible you use (KJV, NIV, ESV, etc.), the message of 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 is the same. When you receive Holy Communion (The Lord’s Supper, The Eucharist) you receive in, with and under the bread and wine Christ’s body and blood.

All at the Communion table, those who believe Jesus’ words, and those who do not, receive what Jesus says, namely, His body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. Those who believe Jesus’ words “this is my body. . .this is my blood. . .for the forgiveness of sin” receive Jesus’ blessing, the forgiveness of their sins. Those who receive Holy Communion, but do not believe Jesus’ words, instead of receiving forgiveness are actually condemned for their unbelief.

In faith, receiving Holy Communion, you and all believers who join you at this holy meal are united with Christ. You are also united with your fellow Christians who receive Holy Communion with you. This is why 1 Corinthians 10:17 says, “For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.” This is why Christ instituted Holy Communion. He instituted it for all who are believers in Him.

When you believe Jesus’ words “my body. . . my blood. . . given and shed for you,” you receive the blessing Jesus promised when He instituted this holy meal, “for the forgiveness of your sins.” When your sins are forgiven then the promise of eternal life in heaven is yours as well.

Prayer: Thank You Jesus for pouring out Your blood on Calvary’s cross for the forgiveness of my sins. Thank You for Your gift of Holy Communion through which

I receive Your precious body and blood, in, with and under the bread and wine and the forgiveness You promise me. Send Your Holy Spirit to keep me in this true faith to life everlasting. Amen.

The gifts Christ freely gives He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.

The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes Us His and His alone
Here He forgives our sins With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

The gifts of grace and peace From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends Us forth in His blest care.

The gifts are there each day The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear, Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself, Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing Them for this world's strife.

The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.

All glory to the One Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!
(LSB 602)

