



downtown Christian Church

Word-based | Prayer-fueled | Spirit-led

The Lord's Supper

What is Communion and why do we celebrate it?

Communion in the Scriptures...

1. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of His arrest as a thanksgiving and a remembrance of the New Covenant
 - 1 **Cor 11.23-25** ...the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
2. It is meant to be a proclamation of the Gospel and a celebration of the unity of the Body of Christ
 - 1 **Cor 11.26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
 - 1 **Cor 10.16-17** Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.
3. It is not to be taken lightly but rather discernment must be exercised in order to maintain the integrity of the celebration
 - 1 **Cor 11.27-28** Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
4. Communion is to the New Covenant as the Passover meal was to the Old Covenant, it serves as a reminder and a celebration of God's deliverance of His people.
 - Matt 26.17,26-28** Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after blessing, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take eat; this is My body." And when he had taken a cup and given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."

Communion in the Scriptures (continued)...

5. It was celebrated often (weekly and even daily) by the early Church

Acts 2.42,46 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...

at DCC...

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly.

- We believe that it is a joy and a privilege not to be neglected. Further, we feel that the ministry of the Word (Apostle's Doctrine) ought to go hand in hand with the breaking of bread now as it did in the early days of the Church.
- Logistically, it is impractical for us to celebrate together daily as it seems to have become for the early church (Acts 20.7). However, believers are encouraged to make the Lord's Supper part of their daily family life.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a celebration for those who are believers in Christ and that each individual ought to examine his or her heart as they prepare to rejoice in the celebration of the New Covenant.

- If anyone is a professing member of the Church of Jesus Christ, and professes Him as both Savior and Lord, they are invited to celebrate.
- In keeping with our value of family, the participation of children in communion is welcome, but left to the discretion of their parents. However, they ought to consider the same criteria, sanctity, and caution outlined above in their decision making.

In order to not present a stumbling block for any of our brothers and sisters, we never use alcoholic wine in our celebration. Rather, we celebrate Communion with grape juice.