

Church Activities – Lord’s Supper; Prayer; Fellowship

Background

As individuals within an assembly, there are different things we do. But even as an assembly (corporately) there are a variety of activities. Yet through these different activities there is a unity that binds us.

Lord’s Supper (Communion)

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17 – Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Communion is one of several things that the church does when it assembles, but the act itself shows a unity of the body. It is a “participation” (literally “sharing” / “fellowship”). All of us, individually, from wherever we’ve come from, assemble, and participate in something that unites us.

However, it is not a magical ceremony. There are some very practical things to consider in regard to taking it correctly.

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-28

Clearly there is a wrong way of taking the Lord’s Supper, even up to the point where it is better you don’t meet to take it! Note the following warning:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:29 – For anyone who eats and drinks without recognising the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgement on himself.

The body of the Lord he most likely refers to the church, not the bread (else otherwise the blood would also have been mentioned). Therefore, taking the Lord’s Supper without giving proper recognition to the assembly is going to bring judgement on themselves.

Question on the Lord’s Supper

- Is taking the Lord’s Supper an individual or a group action? Does it make sense to take Communion by yourself?
- If people do not take Communion with us, does this affect our fellowship with them?
- When might you consider not taking Communion?

Prayer

ACTS 4:31 – After they (the church) prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

ACTS 12:5 – So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying earnestly for him.

Prayer is something we should be incorporating into our daily, individual lives. But prayer is also a corporate activity. We see God works powerfully through prayers of the church and doing so corporately results in the filling with the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 6:18 – And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and keep on praying for all the saints.

So, through fellowship with the Holy Spirit we are able to pray effectively. The Holy Spirit is what we have in common so again we assemble and are united through participation in prayer.

Questions on prayer

- How is your individual prayer life? How does it contrast with your corporate prayer life?
- What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
- What do we need to pray effectively for all the saints?

Fellowship

ACTS 2:42 – They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Although “Fellowship” is entwined with the Lord’s Supper and Prayer, it is also mentioned here as a separate entity in its own right. Fellowship is literally “holding something in common”. In other words, fellowship is being with people whom we share something with.

HEBREWS 10:24-25 – And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Do not underestimate the power of spending time with people that you “hold something in common with”. And remember, as disciples, we possibly hold a lot more in common than what you see on the surface.

HEBREWS 3:13 – But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

The aim is daily fellowship. Realistically, we “may” fall short of that, but the standard is there. “Today” we can try and be with someone that we “hold something in common with”.

Questions on fellowship

- What things do we hold in common with other disciples?
- What should be our attitude towards disciples that we hold less things in common with?
- If we are falling short of encouraging daily, what can we do to *at least* increase the encouraging we are currently doing?