

Introduction:

- Every Jewish holiday and major life event is marked with food. Special foods are eaten on different holidays that relate to the specific theme or event the holiday commemorates.
 - It is not an accident that food is such an important part of celebrating and remembering and relating
 - The social aspect of food is a God designed feature in order to produce revelation.

I. At the Table**A. Relationship is found**

1. God and Elders Exodus 24
2. Jesus Words and Food
 - a) constantly ate with sinners and tax collectors
 - b) Jesus resurrection
3. Early church
4. Acts 2:41-47 community of friends gathers listen to apostles teaching broke bread and prayer.
 - a) Relationship and food go hand in hand!
 - b) Communion is an expression and a means by which we relate with God and other believers

B. Community is revealed

1. *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.* 1 Cor 10:16-17 (ESV)
 - a) We break, we take a sip of the whole, we are each possessing a piece of the whole just as we are each a part of Christ and it takes coming together to form the whole.

C. Value is Shown

1. Life is given
 - a) When Jesus died, his shed blood and broken body, purchased all the promises of God.
 - b) *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.* 2 Cor 1:20 (ESV)
 - c) *"By faith—by trusting in all that God is for us in Jesus—we nourish ourselves with the benefits that Jesus obtained for us when he bled and died on the cross."* ~ John Piper
 - d) Giving of my life for your benefit

D. The warning

1. *Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.* 1 Cor 11:27-32 (ESV)

2. Why some died and why some sick—be careful you could die doing this.
 - The Unaware
 - The Irreverent
 - The Toasters
 - The Unexamined
 - The Unrepentant
3. Communion is something believers do. It is not an act for unbelievers. Unbelievers may be present, we are more than happy to have them around during it. It is not a secret
4. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Cor 11:26 (ESV)
 - Proclamation is not a secret or private thing by its very nature.

II. Bread—Christ's body given for his people

- A. Paul: My **body for you**
- B. My body for you!!! UN-corrupted by sin!!!
 1. His body/life paid so mine does not have too!

III. Cup

- A. My blood **shed** for you
 1. New covenant
 2. Forgiveness
 - a) Joseph - The cup that brought them back to Egypt was, to them, a symbol of judgment and death. Yet, it became the occasion for redemption and forgiveness. Genesis 44
 3. By calling the cup "the new covenant in my blood," Jesus makes a direct reference
 - a) Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)—Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.