

THE ROLE OF COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH

***Creation Principle One...** *God made men and women in his image (termed the first Adam). God made man as a leader and woman as a helper... both these unifying qualities should also be reflected in the purposes of those who are born again... those who are anointed in the Holy Spirit (termed, second Adam).*

***Creation Principle Two...** *God created men, women and children to be united into family units. This reflects the complete unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Likewise the church is expected to learn to function together with the same family love and purpose.*

***Failing One...** *Women frequently take on leadership roles because men won't... however, God created and equipped them to be helper orientated. The church is supposed to reflect the role of the woman, but it frequently takes leadership away from God. A family cannot survive if the leadership of God is ignored.*

***Failing Two...** *God made women attractive to men (the first thing they became aware of after they ate the fruit was they were naked... men were more attracted to the creation than the creator. Similarly at a spiritual level, many are distracted by personal goals at the expense of spiritual truths and commitments.*

***Solution One...** *The only way to be subject to God's leadership is to be in fellowship with his will and purpose... this is called communion (fellowship and communion are exactly the same word in the Greek).*

ROM 8:10 *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. This reverses the mistake that Adam and Eve made... we are able to conform to God's image.*

11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. We are safe from sin.*

12 *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

13 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. If we correct the two principle failings, we are led within God's kingdom... we are family members. God's leadership is welcome and exciting.*

14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Creative purposes are revived.*

15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Seeing we are restored, the second communion principle applies.*

16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

***Solution Two...** *There is only one way to escape the temptations of the flesh... Be subject one to another. This identifies the second part of the communion principle... serve the family of God... be in fellowship with each other. Paul told us how to do this...*

1COR 11:28 *But let a man examine himself (see how genuine he really is), and so let him eat of that bread (this is my body [the church, the body of Christ] v24), and drink of that cup (this cup is the new testament v25). This metaphor explains perfectly the two creation principles. 1. Drinking the cup is walking in the spirit, being led by God. 2. Eating the bread is loving our brothers and sisters, serving each other... leaving the world (our old mother and father) and forming a new family (the church).*

29 *For he that eateth (attends to the church) and drinketh (attends to the new testament) unworthily (doesn't understand what communion/fellowship truly is), eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. Not comprehending the importance and value of the fellowship.*

30 *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. These are spiritual failings, that lead to falling away or lead to false doctrine and false loyalties... leading to weakness, worldliness and sin. Turning up on Sunday and taking the communion service alone, does not fulfil these verses.*

31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. Learn what fellowship stands for and live.*

32 *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. To know the communion of God is to know how to live forever.*

33 *Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat (feasts of love, Jude 1:12), tarry one for another. Wait for each other, be united in principle and purpose and be united in person... act like a family.*

1COR 16:13 *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit (act) you like men, be strong.*

14 *Let all your things be done with charity. Let everything be done as in a loving family.*

15 *I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) they serve the sick and weak and the unsaved.*

16 *That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth. Do the same... also be addicted to serving the family of God... this is real fellowship, the meaning of communion.*

The two golden laws (love the Lord God and love your brother as yourself... Luke 10:27) are the basis of the whole of the bible. These principles are equally tied up with the two creation principles we have been studying. Observing leadership and serving as a family member fulfils the love that Jesus Christ miraculously revealed. The role of communion simply amplifies the same two themes. It's not about eating and drinking... it's about serving and obeying in love.