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## 5 Benefits of Observing Communion

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*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”* (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Is communion meant to be a boring, meaningless ritual or does it have value for us today? There are at least 5 benefits that come to us when we observe communion.

### **Benefit #1: It Keeps Our Focus on Jesus’ Identity**

[1] Jesus is the Lord (cp. John 1:1-3) – The Divine Sovereign

[2] Jesus is the Lamb (cp. John 1:29) – The Human Sacrifice

### **Benefit #2: It Keeps Our Focus on Jesus’ Death**

[1] His death was selfless (“night in which He was betrayed”)

- *His betrayal was imminent (John 13:21-30)*
- *His denial was imminent (John 13:38)*

[2] His death was sacrificial (“this is my body given”)

[3] His death was substitutionary (“for you”)

[4] His death was sufficient (John 3:16-17)

[5] His death secured benefits of the new covenant

- *Purpose*
- *Access to God through prayer*
- *Guidance*
- *A future & a future home*
- *Knowledge*
- *A Comforter/Helper*
- *Joy*
- *A relationship with Jesus & the Father*
- *Unity*
- *Sanctification (positional & practical)*
- *Family*
- *Eternal life (knowing the Father)*
- *Peace*
- *Eternal security*

[6] His death is standard-setting (our pattern for living & loving)

- *Serve one another selflessly*
- *Love one another unconditionally*
- *Endure persecution patiently*

[7] His death is stimulating (“in remembrance of Me”)

- *To keep us focused on Jesus*
- *To keep us reminded of our benefits & blessings*
- *To keep us aware of our obligations & expectations*

### **Benefit #3: It Keeps Our Focus on Jesus’ Return**

[1] His return is certain

- *John 14 – I go to prepare a place for you*

[2] His return is physical (Acts 1:11)

[3] His return is to be anticipated (Titus 2:13)

[4] His return will bring accountability (expectation of behavior)

When: At His Appearing (2 Tim 4:1; 1 John 2:28)

What: Judgment (Bema) Seat of Christ (Rom 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10)

- *Serving (John 13 – washing feet)*
- *Loving (John 13:34-35; 15:12-13,17; 17:26)*
- *Believing (John 14:1ff – walking a life of belief)*
- *Abiding & Bearing Fruit (John 15:1-10, 16)*
- *Looking Ahead (John 14:2-3)*
- *Praying (John 14:13-14; 15:7; 16:23-24)*
- *Accomplishing (14:9-10)*
- *Keeping Commandments (John 14:15, 21-24; 15:10,14)*
- *Being Peaceful (John 14:1, 27-28; 16:33)*
- *Being Joyful (John 15:11; 16:20-24, 33; 17:13)*
- *Knowing (John 15:15,18; 17:8,13-14, 17-19)*
- *Witnessing (John 15:27; 17:21-23, 26)*
- *Being Stable (John 16:1)*
- *Glorifying God (John 13:31-32; 17:1, 4-5, 10; 17:24)*

### **Benefit #4: It Keeps Our Focus on Jesus’ Family**

[1] 1 Cor 11:17-34 = is how to treat others in God’s family

[2] One bread = one body (1 Cor 10:17)

[3] Our obligation = to die for one another! (1 John 3:16)

### **Benefit #5: It Keeps Our Focus on Jesus’ Message**

- Communion is a proclamation – a visual and verbal sermon – of all these things and many more!

*We need communion – it brings us back to the central theme of our salvation – our Savior!*