

Kindly help each other on.

LIVING WHOLEHEATEDLY AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

CALLED TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD
AND RESPONDING WHOLEHEATEDLY
SESSION 3



METHODIST
CENTENARY
CHURCH



THE METHODIST CHURCH
IN IRELAND

Scripture: 1 Cor. 11:17-34

Read

1. What is Paul's issue with the church in Corinth? (17-22)

Explore

1. Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood". What is a covenant?
2. Do you know the names of any of the covenants in the Old Testament?
3. What is the new covenant?

Respond

1. How would you explain communion to someone who doesn't know about it but wants to learn?
2. Are there any practices that we can put into place to make sure we are going to the Lord's Supper in 'worthy manner'? (27)
3. What is your favourite part about sharing communion?

Disagreement: 1 Cor. 11:23-25 – “This is my body”

Context:

As we have seen, this new covenant is to be observed regularly. Within the Methodist Church and most Protestant traditions, Holy Communion is celebrated monthly.

Within the Roman Catholic Church, Holy Communion is celebrated at every mass. Some Catholics go to mass daily and receive communion.

There is also a theological difference on the meaning of communion.

“This is my body” – two views.

- Roman Catholic church – speaking literally.
 - Jesus didn’t say this represents my body; he says this is my body.
 - It’s not symbolic. If you want eternal life, you’ve got to eat and drink it.
- Protestants – its symbolic
 - He was saying this represents my body.

Questions arising:

1. How do you understand Holy Communion?
2. How do we maintain our unity when we have different views on one of the most important aspects of our worship?

1 Cor. 11:17-34

17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk.

22 Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter! 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 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."

25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.