

"COMMUNION – WAYS TO PARTAKE!"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Many times I have been asked, "Just how should a church partake of Communion" or the "Lord's Supper"? The answer that I normally give them is from the "Restoration Movement" leaders. They said many things one of which was:

**"Where the Scriptures speak, we speak;
where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent."**

One area where the Scriptures are silent is the manner or method in which Communion was to be observed. Thus, many ways have been used. Some of these ways are:

- 1) Partake of the emblems as they are passed to the brethren and return the cup to the tray.
- 2) Hold the emblems until all are served, then all partake in a unison manner as instructed by the Communion leader.
- 3) All worshippers go to the front and partake as they are instructed by the Communion leader.
- 4) All worshippers journey to an "Upper Room" as Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in an "Upper Room" and partake as instructed.
- 5) Hold the emblems & partake in a private manner, as one is led.

The crucifixion of Jesus was different than that of any other person in history. He was literally suffering and dying for the sins of all mankind. He could do this because He was the sinless One who satisfied God's demand for sacrifice (Heb. 4:15; 9:28). May we "tune in" properly...!

The newer translations more correctly translates the I Cor. 11:29. The New International Version (NIV) translates the above as one should not partake in an unworthy manner. In other words as one eats and drinks the communion emblems, a person should not be having his/her mind on non spiritual things such as washing and waxing the car after lunch, nor on a sports event which is about to take place. The mind of the Christian should be dwelling upon the crucifixion of Jesus, His suffering (sweating, hurting, pain, dying slowly, horrible condition, pain-racked body, struggling, excruciating, feverish, twisting, etc.).

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