

# UNDERSTANDING COMMUNION

## **Luke 22:19–20 NLT**

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [20] After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.

- To understand communion & receive the maximum benefits from communion we must understand blood covenant
- Our God is a covenant making & covenant keeping God. All relationships with God are established through covenants

## **Genesis 9:16 NLT**

When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."

## **Deuteronomy 7:9 GNT**

Remember that the LORD your God is the only God and that he is faithful. He will keep his covenant and show his constant love to a thousand generations of those who love him and obey his commands...

## **Deuteronomy 29:9 Nlrv**

Be careful to obey the terms of this covenant. Then you will have success in everything you do.

## **Psalms 105:8 KJVS**

He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

## **Ephesians 2:12 NIV**

Before you believed in Christ, you were separated from him. You were not considered to be citizens of Israel. You were not included in what the covenants promised. You were without hope and without God in the world.

## **WHAT IS A COVENANT?**

**Covenant Defined**– A covenant is a binding, unbreakable contract between two parties, based on unconditional love sealed by blood and sacred oath, that creates a relationship in which each party is bound by specific responsibilities on each other's behalf. The parties to the covenant place themselves under the penalty of divine retribution should they later attempt to avoid those undertakings. It is a relationship that can only be broken by death.

A blood covenant between two parties is the closest, the most enduring, the most solemn and the most sacred of all contracts. It absolutely cannot be broken. When you enter into blood covenant with someone, you promise to give them your life, your love, and your protection forever...till death do you part. Marriage is a blood covenant. Today We don't honor marriage as a blood covenant, but God says it is.

## **COVENANTS AND CHRISTIANITY**

**Power Point**– To have a relationship with God you must establish a blood covenant.

- A blood covenant is established by a blood sacrifice

Jesus Christ established the new covenant for us & he is our blood sacrifice. We enter into covenant relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ

True Christianity is based on a person's personal relationship with their creator, the almighty God, through faith in the shed blood of God's only begotten son, Jesus.

We can have this relationship because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary nearly 2000 years ago. It was a plan that was necessary because of the fall of Adam. Adam sinned and lost his dominion over God's creation. The penalty for that sin was death, spiritual and physical.

### **Genesis 2:17 KJVS**

...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In the Garden of Eden Adam died spiritually and lost his personal relationship with God. God spared Adam from immediate physical death because He loved them and desired that Adam and Eve should have descendants. Instead of killing Adam & Eve, God killed an animal and gave Adam and Eve the skin for clothing to hide their shame. The death of the animal was a temporary way of covering their shame and sin.

Physical death was still the penalty for sin. The world needed a "second Adam". One that would be tested and tempted with sin and die in the place of the first Adam and for all of his descendants.

### **Romans 6:23 NLT**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus came into this world as our second Adam. He was tested but never sinned. He died for you and me so we might have life and have it more abundantly. This "plan" of salvation for each and every descendant of Adam (which, of course, includes you) was done in a way that man could understand. It was done through a Blood Covenant.

### **Hebrews 8:6 NLT**

JESUS is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

## COMPONENTS TO CUTTING A BLOOD COVENANT

When two people entered into a blood covenant, they went through a very specific ceremony. In Old Testament times there were 9 steps to “cut” a covenant. Sometimes only two or more were performed but the result was the same, a binding blood covenant relationship

### 4 Basic Reasons People Cut Covenants

1. Relationship
2. Trust
3. Love
4. Protection

### 3 Covenant Expectations

1. Loyalty
2. Faithfulness
3. Dependability

## **STEP 1. EXCHANGE COATS FOR ROBES**

Identity. We get our real identity from God our Father. We are in his family. We are righteous & sanctified. We have a new covenant identity)

In a blood covenant ritual, a person’s robe represents the person. By taking off my robe and giving it to you, I’m symbolically saying, “I’m giving you all myself. My total being and my life, I pledge to you.”

Jesus took on our robe of self-righteousness which is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). He took on our nature. He took on all our liabilities which are the sins of our spirit, the sorrows of our soul and the sickness of our body. They were all placed on Him. All of our spiritual leprosy, that deadly blood disease we carry, was put on Him and He who knew no sin became sin for us.

## **2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV**

God made him (JESUS) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **STEP 2. EXCHANGE OF BELTS – MY STRENGTH (PROTECTION)**

I'm giving you all my strength and pledging you all my support and protection. And as I give you my belt, I'm saying, "Here is my strength and all my ability to fight. If anybody attacks you, they are also attacking me. Your battles are my battles and mine are yours. I will fight with you. I will help defend you and protect you." And you do the same to me

## **Ephesians 6:10,13 KJVS**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

## **Philippians 4:13 KJVS**

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

## **Psalms 28:7 NLT**

The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

## **STEP 3. CUT THE COVENANT– MY WORD**

"Cut the covenant" by taking an animal and splitting it right down the middle. In the Bible, an animal is only cut down the middle and split in two in a covenant ceremony. After we split the animal, we lay each half to the side of us and stand in between the two bloody halves of flesh, with our backs to each other. Then we walk right through the bloody halves, making a figure eight, and come back to a stop facing each other. In doing so we are saying two things. First, we are saying that we are dying to ourselves, giving up the rights to our own life and beginning a new walk with our covenant partner unto death. You see, in this covenant, each half of the dead animal represents us. And second, since the blood covenant is the most solemn pact, we each point down to the bloody

animal split in two and say, "God do so to me and more if I ever try to break this covenant

### **Hebrews 9:12 KJVS**

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

### **Hebrews 6:13–14 KJVS**

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, [14] Saying, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

## **STEP 4. RAISE THE RIGHT ARM AND MIX BLOOD – MY LIFE**

Then we raise our right arms, cut our palms and bring them together. As we do, our blood intermingles. The life is in the blood. The two become one. They have the same nature. They are one blood. They had a blood transfusion. As our blood intermingles, we believe our lives are intermingling and becoming one. WE are putting off our old nature and putting on the nature of our blood covenant partner. We two are becoming one. The two have become one.

### **John 17:21 KJVS**

they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:

### **2 Peter 1:3–4 KJVS**

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

## **STEP 5. EXCHANGE NAMES– WE ARE ONE, AUTHORITY**

The covenant persons exchange names. I take your last name as part of my name, and you take my last name as part of your name. I get the same response when i use your name.

### **Acts 11:26 NIV**

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

### **Colossians 3:17 KJVS**

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

### **John 14:13 KJVS**

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

## **STEP 6. MAKE A SCAR– OUR GUARANTEE, SEAL**

The next step is to rub our blood together and make a scar as a permanent testimony to the covenant. The scar will bear witness to the covenant we have made. It will always be there to remind us of our covenant responsibilities to each other. It is the guarantee of our covenant.

### **Isaiah 49:16 NIV**

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

### **Ephesians 1:13 NIV**

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

## **Step 7. GIVE COVENANT TERMS – OUR AGREEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES**

The covenant parties stand before witnesses and give the terms of the covenant. I say, “All my assets are yours. All my money, all my property and all my possessions are yours. If you need any of them, you don’t even have to ask. What’s mine is yours, what's yours is mine

### **Ephesians 1:3 KJVS**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

### **1 Corinthians 3:21,23 NIV**

... All things are yours, [23] and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

### **Romans 8:32 CEV**

God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else?

### **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 NIV**

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

### **Romans 12:1 NIV**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God---this is your true and proper worship.

## **STEP 8. EAT MEMORIAL MEAL**

After the covenant terms are given, we have a memorial meal to complete the covenant union. In place of the animal and blood, we have bread and wine. Wine is called the blood of the grapes and it represents our own lifeblood. The bread represents our flesh.

We take a loaf of bread and break it in two and feed it to each other saying, "This is symbolic of my body and I'm now putting it in you." Then we serve each other wine and say, "This is symbolic of my lifeblood which is now your blood."

### **Luke 22:19–20 NIV**

And he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” [20] In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you

### **John 6:56 KJVS**

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

### **Matthew 8:17 KJVS**

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

### **Isaiah 53:5 NLT**

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

## **Step 9. PLANT A MEMORIAL– REMEMBRANCE**

We now leave a memorial to the covenant. We want to always remember it. We do this by planting a tree that we have sprinkled with the blood of the animal. The blood-sprinkled tree, along with our scar, will always be a testimony to our covenant.

### **1 Corinthians 1:18 NLT**

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

## **NEW COVENANT COMMUNION FOR THE CHURCH**

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26 KJVS**

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: [24] And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. [25] After the same manner also

he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. [26] For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

**THE BREAD** – All he has is ours. Healing, prosperity, protection. We have everything we need for life and godliness.

**2 Peter 1:3 KJVS**

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,

**THE WINE**– His life is ours. We are in him . He is in us. We have his divine nature

**Colossians 1:27 CEV**

And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory.