

Sunday Celebration (November 29, 2009)
"Celebrating the Eucharist"

Thanksgiving 2009

John 18, Lk 22 An evening filled with difficulty!

Lk 22:17-19 ... The Institution of the Lord's Supper – "Communion" ... Also called the "EUCHARIST"

What Is This and What are We Doing When We Celebrate it?

1. It's ORIGINS
2. It's CONTENT
3. It's Enduring Practice

Origin of the Eucharist

Lk 22:7-8 Passover Meal Ex 12:1-14

IMAGERY LEARNED:

- Imminent Judgment
- God Given, Merciful Escape
- Vicarious Substitute
 - The Lamb
 - The Blood
 - The Blood Applied

Lk 22:15 ... Jesus eager longing to eat THIS Meal

Content of the Eucharist

1. Thanksgiving

eucháristos (Gk) – thankful, grateful, well-pleasing. Gratitude, thankfulness, thanksgiving (from The Complete Word Study Bible and The Complete Word Study Dictionary)(eu and charizomai),
eu – to be well off, fare well, prosper, (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

eucharistos = mindful of favors, grateful, thankful: (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

We first find eucharistos in the senses "pleasant" and "graceful."
(from Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

"Thanksgiving" is the expression of joy Godward (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

2 Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

"Eucharist is an abundant overflow of thanksgiving that is caused by the grace of God"

2. Remembrance

Eucharist, then is about the Mindful Contemplation of a Benefit We Have Received, and the Giving of Thanks in Response

"... gratitude is more than saying "Thank you," when someone gives you something. Gratitude is more than an action which we decide to do by an act of will power. You can say the words, "thank you," when there is not gratitude in your heart at all. Custom may dictate that you say the words when you don't really appreciate what has been done for you. What it takes to turn the words, "thank you," into gratitude is the real genuine feeling of gratitude. Gratitude is a feeling that arises uncoerced in the heart. It cannot be willed into existence directly if it is not there. If you give a ten year-old a necktie or a pair of socks for Christmas he may dutifully say, "Thank you," but the spontaneous feeling of gratitude will probably not be there like it would be if you gave him a new electronic game or hockey stick. Gratitude is a feeling not an act of will power. And it is a good feeling. When it rises in our hearts we like it. It is part of happiness not misery. Gratitude is a form of delight. John Piper

"Real Christianity is Full of RESPONSE" "RELIGION is Full of Requirement"

What Causes this Giving of Thanks? 2 Cor 4:15 *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

“ Almost all English translations miss a beautiful opportunity to preserve in English a play on words that occurs in Paul's Greek. Paul says, "It is all for your sake so that as charis extends to more and more people it may increase eucharistian to the glory of God." The Greek word for thanks is built on the word for grace: charis becomes eucharistian. This could have been prescribed in English by the use of 'grace' and 'gratitude' which show the same original root. So I would translate: "It is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase gratitude to the glory of God." The reason this is important is because when we try to define thanks or gratitude what we find is that it has a very close relationship to grace. Unless we see this relationship we really don't know what gratitude is.” **John Piper**

***"Gratitude Expressed [thanksgiving] is Preceded by
GRACE REALIZED"***

1 Thess 5:18 "In everything give thanks : for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."KJV

- As was true in Jesus' Final Evening— ***"The Reason for Gratitude is Always Greater than the Reason for Grumbling or Anxiety"***

THANKFULNESS = a BY-PRODUCT You don't get thankfulness by seeking thankfulness, you get thankfulness by Receiving Revelation

- **2Cor 4:1, 6-18**

Practicing the Eucharist

NOTE: NOT about "Receiving Christ" – this has done so much harm to Biblical Christianity.

We receive Christ by faith and we are BORN-AGAIN by the Holy Spirit. This is now the EPICENTER of Christianity. The Presence of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit who is received by faith and who fills our lives as clearly emphasized and displayed in Acts and the Epistles. – NOT the "receiving" of Christ on a regular basis through his "presence" in the Bread & Wine.

Today, we are not "Receiving Christ" ... this is a meal that is ONLY for those who have already received Christ—Not through Bread but through the New Birth of the Holy Spirit.

ELEMENTS OF BIBLICALLY UNDERSTANDING & PRACTICING THE EUCHARIST

1. **Consider It's Origin** ... the Passover Meal (A Covenant Meal)
2. **Emphasis on Remembrance** ... an invitation to contemplate the Grace of God
3. **Giving Thanks** ... (overflowing gratitude as the result of being filled with effective remembrance)
4. **Mindfulness of Our Connection to the "Body of Christ"**

1 Cor 10:17

1 Cor 11:18-22

5. **Self-Examination** ... Is This a Reality in My Life Practice & Ambitions?

1 Cor 11:27-28