

POINTS TO PONDER

- Communion at Passover is full of symbols, types, and shadows. Israel looked forward from Passover to the cross. As we partake in the Lord's Supper at the communion table, we, the people of God, look back to the cross. Those two symbols bring great power and deliverance in our lives.
- Today, we are probably as confused as that crowd was when Jesus made the statement about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. God wants to reveal to us what it means for His people to eat His very flesh and drink His very blood. That's what happens at the communion table.
- The elements have no power in and of themselves, but there's power in remembering. There's power in mixing faith with that cup and what was provided through the shed blood of Jesus Christ at the cross. There's power in mixing faith with that bread and what is provided now through an experiential, extended way of His body in the earth today.
- Just like your meal represents something in your home, your table represents your labor, your work, and your love for your family and friends who are invited to sit at it.
- Communion represents God's unconditional love for you. He loved you when you were yet a sinner, and because of His love, you can now love people through and by Him.
- Because of the life, labor, and love of Jesus, and because of what the two elements (his body and blood) have provided for us, we shouldn't be weak and sickly like those who don't know the Lord. We should live long and fulfill the purposes that God has for us in this life.
- Due to the way we're coming to the table—with division, strife, dishonor of the poor, and not recognizing the body of Christ—many of us are weak, sickly, and dying prematurely, just like the world.
- Paul said that the reason we're weak, sickly, and dying prematurely is that we're not discerning the body. He didn't say that we weren't discerning the blood.
- We are the body of Christ. Your new identification is in Christ. You're not just somebody who decided to follow Jesus and can now do your own thing, independent of a union with Jesus and the body of Christ.
- I am not the body of Christ; I am a member of the body of Christ. Discerning that opens the door for strength, for health, and to live a long life serving God.

- The Spirit has given different gifts to the body of Christ so that we can now not only be dependent upon God and live in union with Him, but also understand our dependency upon one another.
- Most people go to church and never see their identification with Jesus and one another. They seldom see their need for Jesus and others in the body of Christ, nor do they learn to honor and respect each other.
- We're not accessing and honoring the different members of the body of Christ, nor are we loving each other and operating in forgiveness. Because of the blood, we can forgive everybody in the body of Christ, and we can receive from the Spirit in every member of the body. This makes us strong and healthy and causes us to live long and fulfill the purpose of God in our lives.
- Saul had to discern that Jesus uses His body—the church—to implement His will on earth. Otherwise, Saul would have missed out on his healing, just like many people do today.
- The Israelites ate the Passover lamb, and the next morning, they came out of Egypt. We don't know the exact number, but it was a miracle that the multitude of Israelites that came out of Egypt were all healed.
- When we partake of the bread during communion, it's like eating the Passover lamb. Every local church is like one of those Israelite families. We come together as a local body and partake of the blood and bread of Jesus. It strengthens us, and we see great and mighty things.

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with you in prayer?**

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