

# Obeying Jesus

7 Commands  
for Every Disciple

**Week 3 | The Table of Memory & Mystery**

# Obeying Jesus – Series Focus

- In his last moments on earth with his core disciples, Jesus said, “Go and make disciples... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded” (Matt 28:18-20)
- So, what are these commands that sincere, authentic followers of Jesus should be obeying?
- In our **Obeying Jesus: 7 Commands for Every Disciple** series, we will look closely at those teachings and practices that Jesus presented as basic and foundational to faithfully following him as his disciples in the world
- 7 Commands: repent & believe, baptism, **communion**, loving God & neighbor, prayer, giving, and making disciples

# The Table of Memory & Mystery

- In their final Passover together, Jesus infuses new meaning into the community meal of God's people. The "Last Supper" becomes his memorial meal.
- He tells his disciples that the bread and cup of the table now represents his broken body and blood shed for the sins of the world. He commands his disciples to remember him each time they receive it together.
- In *The Table of Memory & Mystery* (3 of 7), pastor David will help us see the real purpose of communion, and how this sacrament is more than just a symbol.

## **John 6:43-59**

The Gospel of John (Visual Bible)

# Eat My Flesh & Drink My Blood?

What is happening here in the context of John 6:22-59?  
Why does Jesus speak this way about his body and blood?

1. Jesus fed the 5,000 and still the skeptical crowds demand a “sign” to believe; Jesus responds with a *challenge* in order to separate followers from fans
2. Jesus is reinterpreting what actually happened in the wilderness; it was God not Moses who fed the Hebrews
3. Jesus is God’s gift of spiritual sustenance, the real bread from heaven; He is not only gift, he is God in the flesh

## Luke 22:14-20 NIV

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> 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.”

<sup>20</sup> 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.



# Jesus Fulfills the Passover Meal



# The Table of Memory

- At the Lord's table (supper), we remember what Christ has done for us through his death on the cross.
- We remember and testify that the story which began long ago has been (and is being) fulfilled in Jesus.
- We remember and testify that we have been included at his table & fellowship by our baptism; we renew our baptismal vows and are spiritually formed by it.
- This memory of Jesus brings to mind his promise that we will share a future meal when he returns in glory—the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” (Rev 19:6-10).

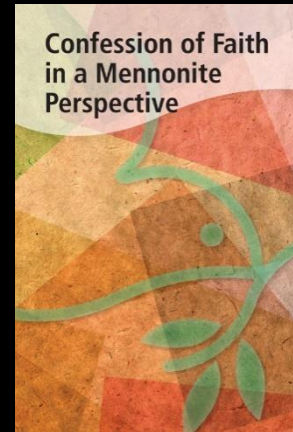


# The Table of Mystery

- While there has been much debate about the meaning of Jesus' words ("This *is* my body/blood"), the church recognizes the mystery that surrounds the meal.
- It's a table of mystery because Christ is in fact present in a real way to us as individuals and as a community.
- We are ingesting (i.e. receiving in us) the life of Christ with the church and are transformed by practicing it.
- The table is both memory & mystery because it demands that we participate in it with holy reverence.

# Confession of Faith

*in a Mennonite Perspective* | Article 12 (pg.50)



- “The Lord’s Supper points to Jesus Christ , whose body was given for us and whose shed blood established the new covenant. In sharing the bread and cup, each believer remembers the death of Jesus and God’s act of deliverance in raising Jesus from the dead.”
- “The supper re-presents the presence of the risen Christ in the church... [recognizing] life is sustained by Christ.”
- “There we renew our baptismal covenant with God and with each other ad recognize our unity with all believers everywhere in all times. All are invited to the table who have been baptized into the community of faith...”

## **Paul, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NLT**

<sup>23</sup> For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread <sup>24</sup> and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” <sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.

## **Paul, 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 NLT**

<sup>27</sup> So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup.

<sup>29</sup> For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

# Worthily Coming to the Table

What does this look like today? How can we come to the table in a manner that honors this sacrament?


1. Teach that *all* are welcome at the table after first passing through the waters of baptism.
2. Confess your sins and be reconciled to your brothers and sisters in Christ before partaking.
3. Practice receiving communion together on a *regular* basis for the purpose of spiritual formation.

# The Table of Memory & Mystery

“The Table of Memory & Mystery” reflection questions:

1. How does it make you feel that Jesus is willing to say some hard things in order to call forth true followers?
2. Are you willing to obey Jesus even if his words are challenging or don't make total sense to you?
3. While churches can/do practice communion differently, do you believe we are sharing in the practice frequently enough that it is meaningful and spiritually formative?
4. What is God speaking to you this morning? How does he want you to respond to this message?





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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)