

The purpose of Good Friday, is to remember. We remember the sacrifice that Jesus made:

- The false accusations;
- The injustice of the trial;
- The humiliation, as He was stripped, for all the world to see;
- The mocking;
- The cruel flogging;
- The torment;
- The brutality of the cross

We remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us – The enormous cost...

But we also remember God's good purpose **in** this. Jesus died, so that we might live. This is the cost of the penalty of our sins...

Sometimes on Good Friday, we take communion together – a sharing in the body and the blood of Christ.

And today, I want to talk about how when we take communion, we're not only remembering Christ, but we **identify** with Christ. We are **joined** with Christ, in His death.

To the Corinthian church, Paul wrote:
1 Corinthians 10:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is **it** not a participation in the body of

Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The crucifixion of Jesus, was an historical event. It happened... And this event (more than any other), is something that has, not only impacted the world, but it's an event that, even now, 2000 years later, disciples of Jesus Christ, participate in.

In our Baptism, we are baptised into the death of Christ:

- We die to self
- We die to our old life
- We die to sin
- Romans 6:4 says we are buried with Christ.

We are participants in the cross. Just as our Lord gave up everything for us, we give up everything, in obedience to Him... That's **one** way in which we participate in the body and blood of Christ...

But there's an even more vital expression of this participation.

The Greek word that gets translated as "participation", is "κοινωνία" (fellowship).

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a (fellowship) in the blood of Christ? The bread that we

break, is it not a (fellowship) in the body of Christ?

¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Probably, one of the most difficult concepts for us modern westerners, to wrap our heads around, is the communal nature, of salvation and the church...

In our individualistic culture, we're happy enough to be united to Christ – but not always so keen to be united to those other Christians...

The church – Christians – these around us – **us** - **We** are the fellowship of Christ. Through the blood of Christ, and through the body of Christ, we become the fellowship of Christ. And that's why "Communion" is called "Communion", because through the body and blood of Christ, we commune with Christ, and we commune with each other, because who are we? We, are the body of Christ.

Just as there is one bread, **we** become one body... There is only one Saviour who died for us... We are in Christ. Christ, is in us... ... Right back in the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul asked the question, "**Is Christ divided?**", and of course the answer is "No, of course not."

And now here we read:

¹⁷ ... there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

It's not because we all eat from the one loaf of bread, in this sacrament we call "communion", that we become 1 body..... it all comes back to Good Friday. As we gaze upon the blood-soaked cross..... We are all joined – we all fellowship, in the body and in the blood, of the one who was crucified...

Jesus died, not only to save us from our sin, but so that we would become one in Him... And this is what we're reminded of in Communion. Later on, in Chapter 11 of this same letter to the Corinthians, Paul gives them a dire warning that their divisions and their disconnect from other Christians (in their practice of communion), was the cause of some of their weakness and sickness and death... They were missing the significance of being the one body.

In Christ's death, we are all joined to one another, and to Christ. And so, to sin against the body of Christ, is to sin against Christ.

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¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 11:23 the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the

same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For
as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.