

## ACTS 2:42 (NASB)

<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 11:20-27 (NASB)

<sup>20</sup> Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, <sup>21</sup> for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. <sup>22</sup> What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

## REVIEW

A *movement* often begins in the planted seeds of an idea. The idea takes root in the fertile ground of a community then bursts forth with action and momentum. The early church had been primed with the central idea that Jesus was (and is!) God's promised *Anointed One*. Through his apostles, they would discover more about his unique and sacrificial love. And by gathering and partaking of both *ordinary* and *sacred meals*, they would know him through the holy act of *remembrance*.

## STUDY IT

- In Acts 2:42, what does it mean to "break bread"?
- How is this act different from/similar to the idea of *fellowship*?
- Why might this specific act be a powerful discipline in the lives of the early church?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-27.** Why might the Apostle Paul have need to clarify the *way* believers practiced the Lord's Supper?
- What are some things believers should *not do* when practicing this special meal together? (vs. 20-22)
- Where does Paul's authority come from? Why does this matter? (v. 23)
- According to Jesus, what is the purpose of the meal? (vs.24-26)
- How does the act of communion strengthen the community of Christ?
- How might *remembrance* function a spiritual discipline?
- How does the act of communion strengthen the believer *personally*?
- How are believers called to self-examination before partaking of the bread and juice/wine? (v.27)

## APPLY IT

- In your own words, why do we (as followers of Jesus Christ) practice communion?
- Why is it important to understand the reason behind this sacrament?
- What goes through your mind when you participate in communion?
- How might these thoughts help you in your worship? How might these thoughts hinder you?