

Focus on the Lord

October 6, 2019

Luke 22:14-20

14 When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. 15 He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood (NRSV).

World Communion Sunday is very significant. Today the whole Christian world is in communion with Jesus. We participate weekly, some do it monthly, and some quarterly. Most Christian denominations participate today. We join with the world in celebrating communion with Christ.

Based on biblical interpretation I believe the core of theology is Jesus. The core message is what Jesus had to say. The core mission is what Jesus wants you to do. I believe we should all live by the Bible. Therefore, I have a strong conviction for Acts 2:42 where the disciples devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. They devoted themselves to these four things. So, the church that Jesus built is the people of God devoted to Jesus; devoted to teaching, fellowship, communion, and prayer. Christ is the head of the church. Christ teaches the church to be united together, united in the blood and death of Christ. We all should be in communion with Christ each and every Sunday.

The church body is the united body of believers. We are acting agents of Christ's work. We are to carry on as Jesus did where everyone is invited and welcome to the Lord's table. A healthy church is balanced in three dimensions. Proclamation which is the preaching, teaching, and instruction aspects of ministry. Service which is your outreach and missions. Communion is a matter of being in relationship with God and with the other members. The body of Christ is to be in communion with Christ. We are to live by the word of Christ. We are to live by the mission of the church. If we actively practice what we preach then we are in communion with God and the people, then we have no difficulty serving the world around us. What we should do is what Christ calls us to do.

The center of Christ's teaching is the center of the truth. So, today we are at the table. The table of togetherness, the table of fellowship, the table of sharing, and the table of love. The Bible refers to the church as God's family. It is a prevalent family picture. There is specific text 1st Peter 4:17 "family of God" and 1st Timothy 3:15 "God's household." There are many implicit references of the church as God's family. The Bible emphasizes the relationship between God and the believers using family terms. We are all brothers and sisters, adopted by Christ, into the family of God. The Son of God created this church where people have love, compassion, and forgiveness. You are a member of the church that Christ established and you are a member of God's family.

Your biological family is genetic. Your church family is spiritual. To be in a family is a matter of love. There are lots of houses around us. But for each person living in one there is only one home. Home is where your family is. Home is where love lives. Home and love give you warm and fuzzy feelings. The New Testament church captures the reality taught in the Bible.

The church is our family in Christ. For many the church family is closer than their own genetic family. This is due to the spiritual bond that exists between two people in Christ.

Jesus was preaching and teaching and there was a large crowd there. Someone told him that his mother and brothers were there to see him. Jesus pointed to his disciples and said here are my mother and brothers. You are his disciples. You are his brothers and sisters. You have the best case scenario. You have the best family possible. The family of God. That is something to be quite proud of. Your heritage has some responsibility. You have a responsibility to the Lord to share the love of Christ with others in the world.

We all come together at the Lord's table like a family gathers together at the supper table. In an act of great love Jesus gave his life for ours and taught us the practice of sharing a loving meal. We welcome all to the table of fellowship. This is a very meaningful act of reconciliation. It is a memorial to remember Jesus, his great gift and action of togetherness. It is a good time to renew our commitment to follow him, the lessons that he taught, the life that he lived, and his example of sacrificial love.