

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The loaf which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one loaf, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one loaf.

As part of the worship the members would give what they could afford into the groups fund.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly **in: ... the sharing ...**

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you put by itself in store, **as God has prospered him ...**

2 Corinthians 8:12 ... if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have. 13 ... not that other men be eased, and you burdened ...

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians. 8:5 ... they ... first gave themselves to the Lord ...

It would be used at the group's discretion to help the needy or for promoting church work.

2 Corinthians. 8:14 ... that now at this time your surplus might be a supply for their needs, that their surplus also may be a supply for your needs ...

Philippians 1:5 For your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now;

Philippians 4:15 ... no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my necessity.

Take note that they did not solicit money from non-members.

3 John 7 Because for his name's sake they went forth, **taking nothing of the nations.**

They would also pray and sing.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in: ... the prayers.

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

CONTINUED

Authentic Christianity

STUDY 07

SIMPLICITY IN THE WORSHIP

SHEET 1 of 2

"Authentic Christianity"

Study 7 SIMPLICITY IN THE WORSHIP

In New Testament times all of each group of Christians made a point of coming together for a special period of worship every week.

Acts 20:7 And **upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break the loaf ...**

1 Corinthians 16:2 Upon **the first day of the week let every one of you** put by itself in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

This weekly gathering would take place sometime between Saturday sunset and Sunday sunset. This period is called "the first day of the week" and is derived from the Old Testament way of reckoning days, i.e. from sunset to sunset.

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And **the evening and the morning were the first day.** (vv. 8, 13, 19, 23 and 31)

The main purpose of that meeting was to recall how the Lord Jesus died for our sins. It is an act of remembrance.

1 Corinthians 11:23 ... the Lord Jesus ... took bread ... and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **do this in remembrance of me.** 25 Also in the same manner he took the cup, ... saying, This

cup is the new covenant in my blood: do this, whenever you drink it, **in remembrance of me.** 26 because whenever you eat this bread, and drink this cup, **you relate the Lord's death** until he comes. (also Matthew 26;27, Mark 14:24 and Luke 22:19)

During the meeting someone would pray on behalf of all the congregation, giving thanks for the loaf. Then they would share an unleavened loaf to represent His body which He had given for them.

Matthew 26:26 ... Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. (see also Mark 14:22)

Then someone would again offer thanks on behalf of the congregation and they would share a cup of grape juice to represent His blood which He shed for them.

Matthew 26:27 ... he took the cup, and **gave thanks,** and gave it to them, saying, All of you drink from it; 28 For **this is my blood** of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins 29 But I tell to you, I will not drink ... of **this fruit of the vine** until ...

Mark 14:23 ... he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank from it.

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which **we** bless ...

There is nothing cultic in observing the Lord's supper. It is simply the way the Lord has asked us to remember Him. The loaf remains only bread and "the fruit of the vine" remains only grape juice. Nothing magic happens to the bread or grape juice when thanks is given. Nothing mystical happens to the people who eat and drink them. "Blessing it" is saying thank you for its importance.

Matthew 26:26 ... Jesus took bread, and **blessed it** ...

1 Corinthians 11:23 ... the Lord Jesus ... took bread: 24 And when he had **given thanks** ...

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we **bless** ...

Matthew 26:27 ... he took the cup, and **gave thanks** ...

There is no advantage taking any of it to the sick. It won't do anything for them.

The whole congregation was to take part in this communal act of worship.

1 Corinthians 11:18 ... when you **come together in the assembly** ... and v.20 Therefore when you **come together into one place** ...

The communal act portrayed their oneness in Christ.