

Theological Basis

The Lord's fellowship table (fellowship = communion or partnership - Greek word "koinonia". was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ on the night He was betrayed. This ordinance of the New Covenant age is to be observed in the church until our Lord returns. The church is to come together and break bread and partake of that bread and cup, in remembrance of the Lord, on a regular basis. (Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42) The elements, the bread and the fruit of the vine, are a reminder of the sacrifice on the cross of Jesus Christ for His people. At the Lord's table, we are reminded that through the act of one perfect offering, Jesus Christ has atoned for ALL our sin. The bread is to be one loaf which represents to us the body of Christ - of which we are all members (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Christ has come in human flesh that we might be redeemed and made partakers of the kingdom of light. Christ has reconciled us to His Father, whereby we have peace with God through the blood of His cross in an everlasting covenant relationship. The cup represents this new covenant relationship purchased through the shed blood of our Lord.

We are to continue this remembrance until our Lord returns (1 Cor. 11:23-26). In that day we will feast with our Lord at His table in all the fullness of the Kingdom. Indeed, our gracious Lord has given us this occasion to prop up our faith until that day when our faith shall be made sight.

Specifics for our gatherings in the Warman Communiplex

For those leading our partaking of these elements in remembrance of Jesus please consider the following guidelines:

- This is a response to the sermon or message of Jesus and His gospel proclaimed. Don't feel the need to preach a new sermon. The goal should be directing our hearts to Jesus and His perfect and completed work for us, in response to the truths already presented.
- The introduction or lead-in should not be more than a couple of minutes.
- When referring to the elements, simply call them "**the bread**" (we use unleavened bread that is cut up from a single loaf – representing the one body of which we are all members) and "**the cup**" (we "toast" the Bridegroom, King Jesus, who is our covenant; the cup is filled with the

“blood of grapes” (Gen. 49:11) – crushed for our iniquities; in our case we use grape juice)

- For the sake of newcomers and guests, it is crucial that we explain how we will take part together. You will need to tell people that the plates with unleavened bread and the cups will be passed out during the next song and followers of Jesus are invited to take the elements and hold onto them until the song is over and we will take part together.
- Remind people that this is a remembrance and celebration meal for all of those who know and have put their trust in Jesus in full surrender.
- Feel free to remind people that this is a similar symbol to baptism. It signifies that we have been saved by Jesus. We don't do this to be saved, we take part because Jesus did the work for us. You can encourage those who are taking part in communion for the first time today to talk to someone about also being baptized.
- Once the song has ended and the plates have been passed to everyone, as the band is receiving their elements, say a prayer of thanksgiving, and lead the way in eating the bread, and then drinking the cup together in a toast in honor of King Jesus.

In summary, the two most important pieces are to give instructions for newcomers how this will go down; and secondly to pray. Thank you for your willingness to serve us in directing our hearts and minds to Jesus.

Sample communion invitation— Jesus, gave us this remembrance meal – the bread and the cup – so that as a family of believers together we would think deeply and remember the Gospel of Jesus and realign our hearts with the one who loved us and gave himself for us.

Today, if you are a follower of Jesus then we invite you to take with us. As you do, remember that Jesus took on human flesh and his body was broken for our sin (symbolized by this broken bread) and his blood was spilled for our debt to bring us into fellowship with God in a New Covenant relationship – symbolized by this cup. Feel free to take the elements as they are passed out and hold on to these emblems until after this next song – and then we will pray, and eat and drink together as one body submitted to our King.