

## 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 New Covenant ordinance 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 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). Jesus has come in human flesh that we might be redeemed and made partakers of the kingdom of light. Jesus 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 and communion with Jesus and His church until our Lord returns (1 Cor. 11:23-26). In that day we will feast together 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. This truly is a time of communion – a meeting of heaven and earth - where we as worshippers on earth, unite with the worship of heaven. Jesus is in the midst of his lampstands and we fellowship with him in this meal together.

## Specifics for our gatherings in the Cineplex Theatre

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. We do not want an additional message, but rather want to direct 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 at most.
- 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).
- 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 being passed out during the next song, have double stacked cups containing a piece of bread in the bottom one, and juice in the top one. (Remind people that there is a gluten free option on the communion table. Invite those who are followers of Jesus to take the stacked cups & hold onto them until the song is over when we will take part together.
- You do not have to tell unbelievers not to take, but rather just state that this is a remembrance and celebration meal for all of those who know and have put their trust in Jesus in full surrender.
- The hosting gospel community will provide 8 people pass out the elements.
- Once the song has ended and the plates have been passed to everyone, including those doing the music, then say a prayer of thanksgiving, and lead the way in eating the bread, and then drinking the cup together in honor of King Jesus.
- When you raise the cup, ask a questions such as the ones below, to provide an opportunity for participation from the church family in this communion. This should take only about 30 seconds as people shout out their responses.
  - Sample questions: i) What were you but now what is true about you?
  - ii) What do you love about Jesus?
  - iii) What is our new identity because of the cross work of Jesus?
  - iv) What has Jesus purchased for us?

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 & 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 and commune with the one who loved us and gave himself for us. Today, as followers of Jesus – we continue to affirm what we have professed in our baptism – that Jesus became one of us - taking on human flesh and his body was broken - dying for our sin (symbolized by this broken bread) and his blood was poured out in sacrifice for our forgiveness, that we might be brought into fellowship with the triune God in a New Covenant relationship – symbolized by this cup. Again we identify with our Lord and our Savior together as his blood-bought people. Take the double stacked cups containing 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.*