

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The First Communion  
Mark 14:22-25



## SYNOPSIS

This sermon analyzes the significance of Communion, drawing insights from the Gospel of Mark and other biblical passages. It explores the historical context of the Last Supper as both the final Passover and the first Communion, emphasizing Jesus' sacrifice as the fulfillment of the Old Covenant. The sermon also interprets the symbolic meaning of the bread as Christ's body and participation in the Christian community, and the cup as representing the new covenant established by His blood.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the Last Supper transitioning into the First Communion?
2. What is the meaning of "remembrance" in the context of communion, according to 1 Corinthians 11:23-25?
3. How should the bread in communion be understood?

4. What does the cup represent in communion?

5. What is the significance of the "new covenant" established through Jesus' blood?

6. How does communion point towards the future?

## FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Isaiah 53:4-6

Revelation 19:6-9

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## ANSWER KEY

1. The Last Supper was a Passover meal, commemorating the Israelites' deliverance from death in Egypt through the sacrifice of a lamb whose blood marked their homes. Jesus' transformation of this meal into the First Communion signifies a new covenant. Just as the lamb's blood in the Old Testament caused the death angel to pass over, Jesus, as the "Lamb of God," offers his innocent blood as a substitute, allowing those marked by his sacrifice to be delivered from eternal death and God's judgment. This meal serves as both the final Passover and the beginning of a new ordinance for the church to observe.
2. While taking communion does involve believers remembering what Jesus did on the cross, the original Greek word for "remembrance" in this context also emphasizes God remembering His people and His promises. It's an acknowledgment that God is faithful and keeps His covenant with believers. Therefore, communion is a time for both human remembrance of Christ's sacrifice and an affirmation of God's enduring memory of and commitment to His people.
3. The bread represents the body of Jesus. Unlike some interpretations that believe the bread literally transforms into Christ's body, the understanding presented is that it is a figurative representation, much like Jesus used other metaphors to describe himself (e.g., "I am the vine," "I am the door"). Taking the bread is seen as participating in the body of Christ, signifying fellowship and interaction with Him. The breaking of the bread is understood not to represent the breaking of Jesus' bones (as none were broken), but rather the distribution of His life, symbolizing that through Him, eternal life is offered to all. The bread also symbolizes the unity of believers, who are many but form one body through their shared participation in Christ.
4. The cup represents the blood of Jesus, which establishes the new covenant. This new covenant replaces the old one that required the sacrifice of innocent animals for sins. Jesus' single sacrifice on the cross is the fulfillment of this, pouring out His blood for many. This aligns with prophecies like Isaiah 53:4-6, which foretold of a suffering servant who would bear humanity's pain and iniquities.
5. The new covenant, symbolized by the cup in communion, signifies a fundamental shift in the relationship between God and humanity. It replaces the old covenant's requirement of repeated animal sacrifices with the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus. Through His shed blood, a new and lasting agreement is established, providing forgiveness of sins and a path to reconciliation with God for those who believe.
6. Communion serves as a declaration of faith in Jesus' past sacrifice and resurrection, but it also looks forward to His return. When believers partake of the bread and the cup, they are proclaiming the Lord's death "until he comes." Jesus' statement that He will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until He drinks it new in the kingdom of God highlights a future time of complete and joyous reunion in heaven, referred to as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This underscores that present suffering is not the end and offers a glimpse of future glory and celebration in God's kingdom.