

## **COMMON TABLE Pt 4- Communion Service “As We Gather”**

### **OUR INTERACTIONS & CONNECTIONS**

- How are we likely to interact with one another?
- What governs the way we interact with others?

### **THE COMMON TABLE**

The single most common ways that people of God are referred as in the New Testament is brothers and sisters. God's intention is that His people will live and act as His family.

We live as beneficiaries and stewards of His grace brought into a way of relating to one another as His people based on a common identity.

#### **SLIDE**

#### **COMMON TABLE**

The table reflects both our belonging and our the invitation to belong.

A meal is a COMMON SPACE & A LEVELING SPACE

- At the table, we experience the reality of what we have in common.
- At the table, we experience meal both abundant provision & the declaration of dependence.

Consider Yourself:

- What is the condition of your own heart and soul?
- What are you likely to withhold? Why?
- What are you willing to entrust to another? What would it take?

Consider Others:

Consider Yourself in the context of Others:

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–31 NIV**

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper 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 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

“We give you thanks, Father, for the life and truth revealed in Jesus Christ:  
Yours is the glory for ever and ever.

As the grain once scattered in the fields,  
And the grapes once dispersed on the hillside,  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
So, Lord may your whole church seen be gathered together,  
From the ends of the earth into your kingdom,  
For yours is the glory and the power, through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

– From the Didache (2nd Century)

“But it’s not unprocessed grain and grape that we find on the Communion table, it’s bread and wine. Grain and grape come from God’s good earth, but bread and wine are the result of human industry. Bread and wine come about through a cooperation of the human and the divine.” (Brian Zahnd)

### **REMEMBRANCE AS RECEIVING**

- We receive a New Reality
- We receive a New Responsibility.