

Participating in the Loaf

How we participate in this loaf shows how we partake in the body of Messiah, how we participate. So every week all those who have partaken in the Body, who have participated in it this week, building it up, can take this loaf. We share all that we have today, around this loaf. The first thing we do when we come in this room is we break the bread. And then we share all the things we are sharing now, around the bread. First break the bread and let's begin our meal together. Our Master took the bread and He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, inaugurating the New Covenant. He said, "Take this and eat it, and when you do this, remember Me," because He wanted us to make it until the end, and we won't make it if we don't remember Him.

We die every day to participate in the Body in a worthy manner. It's not for anyone else, just like the blood is only for those who are forgiven and forgive. It's participation in the blood of our Master. This is participation in His Body. 1 Cor 10:15 talks about partaking, participation, and it's so wonderful that we have to be worthy to do this, worthily partake of this. Partake of — we've done everything we could do this week. If we failed, we confessed it. The gap, the separation has been closed. We're forgiven; we've confessed our sins so we're worthy. That's what he means by participation in the body of Messiah. And the cup is only for those who are forgiven and those who do forgive and forget. Otherwise we partake in an unworthy manner.

Worthily is to do your part in the Body to build it up, to forgive one another, to encourage one another, to pray for one another, considering how to stimulate them to love and good deeds, making sure no one misses grace. It's the only way the Body can progress. Those who aren't doing this are unworthy of His blood. If we're not doing the very things that it represents, that we are saying we're doing by partaking, then we're eating and drinking judgment upon ourselves — unless we've realized it and judged ourselves right and asked for forgiveness. We went to the king and said, "Please forgive me for this great debt. I haven't done my part this week." And then, if you do that, of course you can forgive your brother.

This is not for perfect people. It is for imperfect people who can confess their sins. Then we can partake of this worthily. But it's not for imperfect people who don't realize their imperfections and can't name how they are imperfect, in what ways they weren't like our Master this week, confessing to one another, in forgiveness and partaking in the body. This is how we grow week by week, if we really realize how we've fallen short, in what ways we've fallen short. In Jude and 2 Peter it talks about people like brute beasts coming into the love feast, not realizing their condition — they're just beasts; they don't have a conscience. You know? They don't judge themselves. They don't even realize what they're doing.

Do we realize that we *have* been forgiven eternally by the blood of our Master and that we *are* being forgiven as long as we can judge ourselves right? That means that we are forgiving each other. We can't drink this cup unless we are forgiving others. You can't drink this cup unless you are encouraging one another every day. You can't drink this cup unless you're taking up the cross and crucifying yourself every day — unless you're judging it and confessing it.

If we're not encouraging our brothers and sisters and we're unaware of it, then something is the matter with us. We're insensitive, not knowing that our brother is dying out in the forest for lack of grace, totally discouraged, and we're not encouraging him. We're not seeing to it that he doesn't miss grace. Then we partake of this wrongly, not judging ourselves right. It only means that we're not really being forgiven. We're not really being forgiven if we're not forgiving others, or if we're not so concerned about one another that we would encourage one another. We're sinning; we're not forgiven. That's why it says to *make sure* that you judge yourself right before this or you'll be judged, you'll be guilty of the body and blood of our Master.

It's a very serious thing. We only progress as a Body, as a community... our Father only adds to our number according to how pure and clean we are, according to how forgiven we are, how we are in fellowship with our Master. Forgiveness means we are forgiven, eternally, and that we are continually being forgiven as we confess our sin. And no one can confess his sin unless he judges himself, unless the Holy Spirit convicts him of that sin.

If I see a brother and he has a need and I don't see to it that that need is met, when I am able to do it, and then I

come and drink this cup, I'm a hypocrite. I drink this in pretense — I drink judgment to myself. I'm guilty of the body and blood of our Master.

Everyone has great responsibility being in the Body. All you have to do is read the New Covenant — it's recorded. The reason we're drinking this is because we've been forgiven, we're being forgiven, we're forgiving others, we're encouraging one another. If someone is missing grace and we don't see to it that they get grace, we're in sin. Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it is sin. If I see a brother and I ignore him, what is that? That's hate. That is the highest form of hatred — ignoring. He has a need, he's in trouble, he needs encouragement, and I ignore him — that's hatred. I am a murderer and no murderer has eternal life. So you can see how responsible we are being in the Body. We can't drink this and get away with it. The day of reckoning will come. The day we stand before our Master we are going to be judged on everything we've done, every word that's come out of our mouth, every deed we've done, whether good or lawless.

This is a time of great celebration and joy for those that are being forgiven. You can't be forgiven unless you judge yourself right. Forgiveness is not automatic. It's only if we walk in the light — then we have the revelation of the Holy Spirit in our conscience to know that we've sinned so that we can confess it and be forgiven. That's why I talked about how in the first church people walked into this place like animals. We don't want to ever do that. Heb 3:13 — Encourage one another daily. That means everyone in the Body is being encouraged; not one is left out; there is no one discouraged in the Body. If there's anyone discouraged, we're not the Body. We shouldn't even be here tonight, unless we've confessed it. So that means someone is not doing his part.

1 Cor 10:16 says participation in the body. Participate in the body. We participate — by doing what our Master would do if He were here. What would He do? If He were in His human body — He can't be two places at once. That's why He had to go, so He could send His Spirit. What would He do if He were here in person? He'd encourage you, wouldn't He? If He saw you in need of encouragement, wouldn't He come up and encourage you? If you came against Him, would He forgive you if you asked for that? He'd make sure you're not missing grace. If you had a need, He'd make sure your need was met. These are just simple things that we are all to be doing. Otherwise we're drinking judgment on ourselves, once we've come to the knowledge of the truth.

So, what are we going to do when we see a brother in need of encouragement? We're supposed to encourage one another daily. Does it say *daily*? Are you supposed to take up your cross *daily*? *Daily participation.*

Hushai: Confessed that he would rather not drink than be a Christian and pretend. But he is often foolish with his brothers. He is sorry; it doesn't edify. He doesn't want his deeds to be destroyed. When we were baptized we made an appeal. Baptism was the appeal for a good conscience. Now you're getting a good conscience. Our conscience needs to be quickened so that we can see our lack and come to repentance. It's good that you are judging yourself. If you can judge yourself, you can drink, so you won't drink judgment to yourself. If you are not judging yourself, say, "Father, help me! I'm not judging myself."

Hushai: I see that we need forgiveness every day. And we need to have compassion too; we cannot stone our brother or sister because we are in the same state.

The disciples had His example for three and a half years and they knew how He loved them. They were to love as He loved. We know how He loved, because we have the written record, revealed by His Spirit. If He were here on earth among us, how would He be loving? We're to encourage the same way, to consider how to stimulate one another. Consider. You see a brother over there or a sister and they're not doing good deeds, not loving. You're supposed to sit down and consider how to spur them on to do it. It takes consideration. Consider. Ok, let's be obedient to that.