

Receiving Communion Together

by Kenneth Copeland

When a believer partakes of the Lord's Supper, he should do so with full understanding of its significance. Communion, to many people, has become only a religious observance. It has a much deeper meaning than that.

The communion table is an emblem of Jesus' sacrifice for us. *Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins* (Matt. 26:26-28).

Primarily, the church has centered its attention on the wine as an emblem of Jesus' blood that was shed for sin. We take the emblem of blood and say, "Thank God, we are delivered from sin," and that is true. Praise God for it! But the blood is only half of Communion. Jesus shared the wine. The bread is an emblem of Jesus' body that was broken for us. The emblem for His body is just

as important as the emblem for His blood.

According to Isaiah 53:4,5, Jesus' sacrifice covered every area of man's existence. He bore spiritual torment for our sins, mental distress for our worry, care and fear as well as physical pain for our sickness and disease. The stripes He bore were for our healing. With His stripes we are healed. God gave everything He had to redeem mankind from the curse. For us to receive only part of His sacrifice is an insult to Him.

When we receive Communion, we are receiving His body and His blood. Every time we partake, we should examine ourselves closely according to 1 Corinthians 11:28,29, *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.* There is much more involved in receiving Communion than most Christians realize.

God instituted the Lord's Supper

for a reason. When you receive it, you should be ready to partake of everything Jesus' sacrifice provided—salvation, peace of mind, healing, total prosperity. In the past, we have missed the full meaning of Communion by not completely judging ourselves when we partake of it. We have been ready to receive His blood and quick to judge ourselves where sin is concerned. We judge ourselves of sin and repent of it. But what about His body? It was broken for us. It was bruised for us. The stripes laid on Jesus' back were for our healing. At Communion, we should judge ourselves where sickness is concerned as well. Jesus purchased our healing at Calvary just as He purchased our salvation. With this in mind, we say, "Lord, it's not right that I should suffer from sickness and disease. I judge it now as being from Satan and I reject it. I refuse to receive it any longer. I partake of the sacrifice of Your body and I receive the healing that You provided in Jesus' name."

When you partake of Communion, make a point of judging yourself to the fullest extent. Don't just receive it halfway. Accept everything Jesus'