SBC Day of Prayer Dr. Rick Griffith

3 October 2018 Chapel Leader

**Eating with the Lord**

***Topical***

**Topic:** Lord’s Supper

**Subject:** How does God show his desire to commune with us?

**Complement:** He invites us to eat the Lord’s Supper together.

**Purpose:** The listeners will take the Lord’s Supper with a renewed sense of God’s commitment to dwell with them.

# Introduction

### Interest: One amazing reality of the Christian life is that God actually seeks to commune with us.

### Need: Think about this—the holy, perfect, awesome Lord of the Universe wants to have fellowship with sinful, finite you and me!

### Subject: But how does God show his desire to commune with us? There are many answers to this, but today we will look at one aspect we may not have considered.

### Background: As we approach the table of the Lord, consider with me not only the familiar background of the Passover and Upper Room where Jesus instituted this celebration. Let’s look at another aspect of this communion. What I mean is…

# I. A key Bible theme is man “eating with the Lord.”

[Amazingly, we see repeated references to people consuming food in God’s presence!]

## Back at the beginning, Adam walked in the garden among the fruit trees. There he communed with the Lord in the cool of the day and had the honor of eating from all but one tree.

## Exodus 18 says that under Moses, “Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God. Aaron and all the elders of Israel came out and joined him in a sacrificial meal in God’s presence” (Exod 18:12).

## The Passover was certainly the best example of eating before the Lord, for the angel of death preserved those who had eaten the lamb in faith. God was so present at that meal that the angel of death passed over the homes where they ate in faith (Exod 12).

## At the celebration of collecting gifts for the temple under David, it says “So they ate and drank that day before the Lord with great gladness” (1 Chron 29:22). Eating before the Lord was the last recorded act of David at Solomon’s coronation!

# II. Food is so much a part of our lives that we rarely think about it.

## God, of course, knows how vital food is for us. He made our bodies to need food.

## I fear what like would be like if we didn't need food to survive. For many of our families, the only time when we spend time together by looking at one another is when we sit at the same table to consume food!

# III. Jesus instituted the Lord’s Table to signify our communion with him.

## What applies in the family setting where we need meals to strengthen our relationships also applies to our spiritual family.

## God united us from our various backgrounds into one spiritual family called the church. How fitting that we regularly sit down and eat together in God’s presence.

## Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 10:16-18 (NLT), “When we bless the cup at the Lord’s Table, aren’t we ***sharing*** in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren’t we ***sharing*** in the body of Christ? 17 And though we are many, we all eat from ***one*** loaf of bread, showing that we are ***one*** body. 18 Think about the people of Israel. Weren’t they ***united*** by eating the sacrifices at the altar?”

## We gather together today before the Lord to recall what binds us over this simple meal.

# IV. The bread recalls how Jesus has *united* us.

## Bread is a fitting symbol of Christ making us united in him. It lacked yeast, symbolizing the absence of sin within the family relationships.

## The various colors of bread even look like the various shades of our bodies in color—and the lack of yeast points to our spiritual unity without sin.

## Ushers, please distribute the bread-and-cup packets. [Motion them to stand]

## As you receive the elements, take time to pray and consider how God brought you from your biological family into this spiritual family—how would your life be different if you were not in his family? Thank him for reaching to you.

## Let us share in the body of Christ together as one family (partake).

# V. The cup recalls how Christ has *forgiven* us.

## The cup is a fitting symbol of Christ pouring out his blood for us.

## It takes little imagination to see that even the red color of the juice reminds us of our forgiveness in Christ’s blood.

## Take time now to consider how Jesus forgave your sins—how would your life be different if you were still dead in your sins? Thank him for forgiving you.

## Let us share in the blood of Christ together as one family (partake).

# Conclusion

### God invites us to commune with him by eating the Lord’s supper together (MI).

### Main Points that we have considered today include the following:

#### A key Bible theme is man “eating with the Lord.”

#### Food is so much a part of our lives that we rarely think about it.

#### Jesus instituted the Lord’s Table to signify our communion with him.

#### The bread recalls how Jesus has united us.

#### The cup recalls how Christ has forgiven us.

### Application: But what do we do now?

#### Thank God that he actually wants to commune with you!

#### Leave this place with a renewed sense of his presence.

### Prayer