

Emmanuel *Living*



Emmanuel Exists

to glorify God through the prayerful nurturing and sending of disciplined believers to present Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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Why We Need Communion

By: Al Hiebert

At the last supper Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion, Jesus introduced a sacrament we call "Communion" and said, "do this in remembrance of me" (Lu. 22: 19). Why?

1. So that we'd remember His death for the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus said, "This is my body given for you" (Luke 22: 19; cf., Matthew 26:26; Mark 14: 22).

"Then he (Jesus) took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matt. 26:27, 28). Liberals of many stripes reject such "bloody religion." With Jesus, we affirm it, because we recognize God's holiness, as well as His love. We recognize our real sin and just guilt, and therefore our real need for atonement. This is why we need Communion.

2. So that we'd give thanks, as He did.

Jesus "took bread, gave thanks and broke it..." (Lu. 22: 19). "Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks..." (Matt 26:27). Jesus well understood the horrible 24 hours that lay before him (the two-hour movie, *The Passion of Christ*, hardly scratches the surface of the pains and traumas He was about to endure for us). Yet, He gave thanks -- and so must we, regardless of how big or small our traumas are.

3. So that we'd live in communion with our Lord.

Our observance of "The Lord's Supper" draws us closer to Him personally as our Saviour and Lord. From time to time we need to put ourselves into the picture of Christ's sacrificial death to deliver us from sin and destruction. This is why we need Communion. This is why we need to make Him our LORD daily.

4. So that we'd live in communion with each other.

Jesus said, "Drink from it, all of you." We do this together as believers in Christ's one body. Sadly, like the disciples that night, we sometimes quarrel with each other over trivial matters. That night they argued over who would be the greatest in Christ's kingdom (Lu. 22:24). Jesus stopped such bickering by instituting "The Lord's Supper." The Corinthians had different disputes that disrupted their communions (1 Cor. 11: 17-22). What quarrel with others do you and I need to stop, so that we can focus on what's really important?

5. So that we'd learn that leadership is all about service.

That Lord's Supper evening, "Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the

(cont. pg.2)

Connecting

Why We Need Communion *(continued)*

one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves" (Lu. 22:24). These were not idle words. He modelled this servant leadership by washing all the disciples' feet (John 13: 1-17). This too is why we need Communion.

6. So that we'd admit our continuing need for forgiveness for our continuing sinful habits.

The Lord's Supper narrative is not just about Jesus imminent crucifixion. "While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.' They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, 'Surely you don't mean me?'" (Mark 14: 18, 19). Paul reminds us to ask the same question before we take part in Communion: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Cor. 11:28, 29).

7. So that we'd renew our eager anticipation of Jesus' Second Coming.

Paul reminds us that we observe Communion only temporarily: "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's

death *until he comes*" (1 Cor. 11:26, italics added). At every Lord's Supper we should think, "Even so come Lord Jesus!"

8. So that we'd go out singing together.

Perhaps Jesus and His disciples left that upper room singing in harmony (four part?). Perhaps they sang in unison (as some prefer today). "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (Matt 26:30). We know the rest of the story. That night in the Mount of Olives was not fun and games. The disciples didn't know what was coming next. Jesus did. Yet, they all finished The Lord's Supper singing as one body in *sweet communion*.

This is why we need Communion.

Al Hiebert, Ph.D.: (2007-10) Exec. Director of Christian Higher Education Canada; (1996-03) Briercreech Seminary; (1969-95) Providence College & Seminary; (1964-71) Director of Red Rock Bible Camp; (2011) wrote/published *Hiebert Heritage to 2010: Wilhelm & Anna Hiebert Descendants & Ancestors*; (2005) wrote/published *Character with Competence Education: The Bible College Movement in Canada*; has consulted widely with colleges, seminaries & Christian universities in Canada, USA, Lithuania & India.



Growing

Serving

Reflections ~ encouraging each other by sharing how God is working in our lives

This month **Dana Doerksen**, one our Senior High Youth, talks about what Communion means to her.

Communion, to me, is a way of reconnecting with the foundations of the beliefs of Christianity. As a church, we share the same beliefs and values. One of these beliefs is that Jesus Christ was God's son and that he came down to earth to save us. He did this by sacrificing his earthly body to take on the sins of this world. These sins belonged and belong to every person who lived, who is living, and who will live on this earth. It doesn't even matter if they believe in Jesus or not. I think this is a pretty amazing fact. He was looking out for us because he knew that we are only human and we will make mistakes. Communion is one way we can remember this and let it humble us because it is incredible that someone could love us that much. It can also stand as

a time to confess and turn back to the love that saved us. If we have strayed from God's arms, he will take us back, even when we don't feel like we deserve this.

I really enjoyed the Sunday that we went to the front of the church to take the bread and 'wine' instead of sitting in our seats while it was passed around. To me, I felt that it was humbling. We couldn't hide away in the pews. We showed our vulnerability and admitted that we were unworthy to save ourselves. We need God and his unconditional love. Even if people were putting on an act by going to the front, I think it would have made them think about it before going. I feel that partaking in communion gives us an opportunity to refresh and renew our commitment to God to live in his son's footsteps and to have faith in the love that saved us.

Multiplying

Connecting

What I like most about MOPS (mothers of preschoolers)...

By: MOPS Moms & Natasha Friesen

What I like most about MOPS) is being able to come there, knowing that I will be warmly welcomed and surrounded by many other moms in a similar stage of life. Having a cup of coffee and being able to share my joys and frustrations with other wonderful women who have often been through the same things in their own lives. God has blessed me very much through this group. ~ Mom of 3

What I like most about MOPS is the relationships that you can build with ladies that are in the same place in life as you, someone who understands what you're going through. The other thing that I appreciate is the Mentor Moms, a person to talk to, who has been through it all already, and ready to listen and encourage you. ~ Mom of 3

What I like best about MOPS is that it gets me out of the house to be with other Christian moms. It's a relaxed morning with wonderful child care so we can have adult interactions! ~ Mom of 2

This program makes me feel valued as a mom. Being a mom is really the toughest job that I have ever done, and often I feel all alone. MOPS allows me to get out there and relate to other moms who are often having the same struggles as me. It makes me feel like I am on a team instead of all by myself. The child care, the book, and facilitating this program, including the Mentor Moms, makes me feel like the church really cares about me and my struggles. In turn, I can see that God also cares about me and the struggles that I go through. So, this program has been amazing for me, especially as I moved to a new province, a new community where I literally knew no one. I have

a found a place where I can belong. Thanks so much.
~ Mom of 2

What I like most about MOPS is being able to discuss parenting with other moms, get their advice, and learn from each other's experiences. ~ Mom of 1

What I like about MOPS is that it lets me connect with other moms and talk about whatever moms like to talk about, and also that we do different things every time, in a casual setting. I'm very thankful for MOPS. ~ Mom of 3

These are responses from just a handful of the moms that come to MOPS every other Tuesday morning. Not all these moms come to Emmanuel, and yet they have found a place to feel welcome. MOPS is a place where all moms who need to get out and be part of a community are welcome, whether you have preschoolers or not!

We are an ever growing group that does not want to turn anyone away and therefore are always looking to have more people join our child care team. If God is calling you to join our group, or if you know of someone who needs this group, or if you are feeling lead to help us out, don't hesitate to give Natasha Friesen a call or email.

(Ph. 320-1022, nnfriesen@hotmail.com)

Natasha Friesen is in charge of our MOPS program here at Emmanuel. She and her husband Nathan have attended Emmanuel for 4 years, and have 3 boys: Troy, Ethan, and Dean.



Growing

Serving

Multiplying

Upcoming Events at Emmanuel

- February 20th:** Romania Team Fundraising Lunch - immediately following the 2nd Service
- February 21st:** Church Office closed for the holiday
- February 27th:** Congregational Meeting - immediately following the 2nd Service
- March 4th:** Awana Grand Prix

Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page

Worldview - Part 2

By: Rob Reimer

First of all, let us start with a little review of last month. Last month we talked about starting to develop a Biblical worldview in our children. The assignment you were left with was to answer the following 7 questions for yourself.

1. Does God exist?
2. What is the character and nature of God?
3. How and why was the world created?
4. What is the nature and purpose of humanity?
5. What happens after we die?
6. What spiritual authorities exist?
7. What is truth?

George Barna in his book "Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions" tells us there are 4 cornerstones that we have at our disposal to help our children build a solid foundation for their worldview. We are going to turn the four into three.

The first and most obvious starting point is our Bible. Our kids need to understand that everything we believe must line up with what Scripture teaches. The Bible is our absolute authority and giver of direction in all matters of decision making and our children need to see us using it regularly. The Bible is packed full of God's wisdom on living the everyday life and our kids need to know that.

Secondly, the more familiar we are with God's word the better we will be at passing on it's truths to our kids. The better we understand how the whole Bible fits together, the better equipped we will be to pass it on to our children. We are constantly taking in Biblical information and yet we very often do not have an understanding for ourselves as to how all the individual parts fit into the big story. Forming our own answers

to the above 7 questions is a good start to our own understanding of the big picture. Some resources that I would recommend for honing your own Biblical knowledge in this area, and that I have access to are the following:

- "What the Bible is all About" by Henrietta C. Mears
- "What the Bible is all About for Young Explorers" by Blankenbaker & Choun
- "Understanding the Bible" by John Stott

I have also found that the following is a very helpful web resource: https://www.visionvideo.com/detail.taf?_function=detail&a_product_id=31609

The third tool that we have at our disposal is our burning desire to obey God. George Barna tells us that "Our worldview is the springboard to our children's behaviour. If we profess to be followers of Jesus Christ then our worldview should demonstrate a commitment to His principles and standards as manifested in our daily choices and actions." Our family needs to see us taking Biblical truth seriously and applying it to our lives with passion. This is possibly the hardest tool to use because nobody knows us better than our families do. We need to pray that God will increase the desire in our hearts to obey Him. Jesus told us that if we ask for anything that is in accordance with His will, He will give it to us. It is God's will for us to obey so who better to ask for help.

Join us next month when we start to look at the answers to the above 7 questions.

Pastor Rob Reimer is the husband to Sylvia, father to Mandy & Jessica, and has been the Children's Ministries Pastor here at Emmanuel since September 2000.



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