



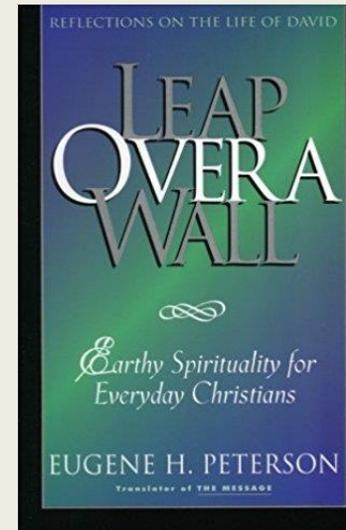
# FIRST THINGS FIRST

STUDIES\_IN  
1CORINTHIANS

# Understanding Communion

“Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God. Worship is the time and place that we assign for deliberate attentiveness to God.”

Eugene Peterson



# Understanding Communion

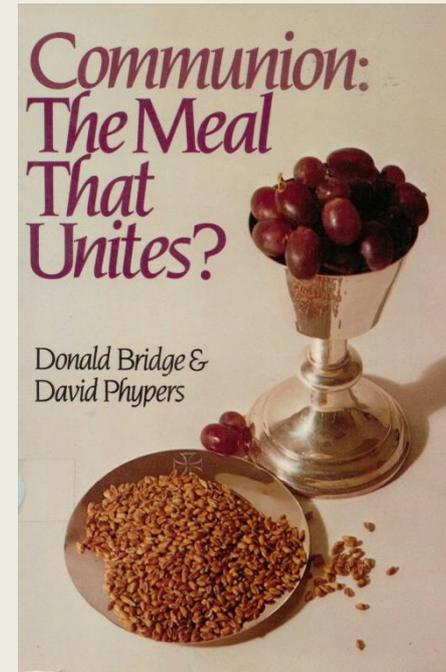
1 Corinthians 11:17-34



# Understanding Communion

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

‘... they all trace their practice back to the fact that the evening before his death Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples... They have quarreled so deeply about its meaning because they so unitedly insist on its great importance.’



## Communion Practice of Early Christians

*'In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.'*

*(1 Cor.11;17,18)*

*'[despising] the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing' (v.22)*

*'[not] discerning the body of Christ... judgment on themselves' (v.29)*

# Rooted in the Passover



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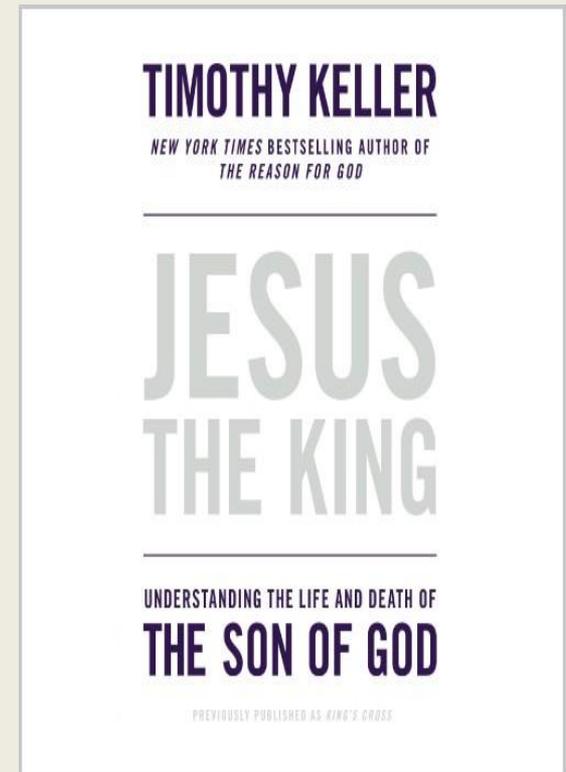
*'The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "**This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.**"*

*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.**"*

(1 Cor.11:23-25)

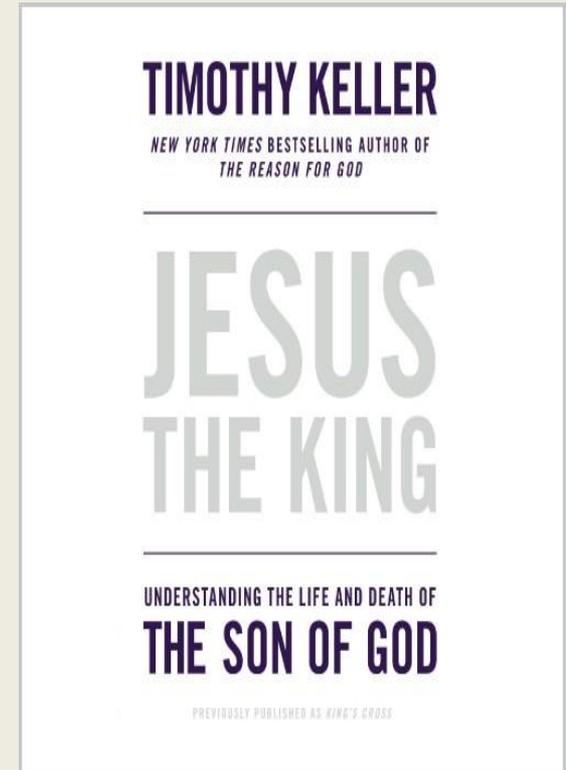
## Rooted in the Passover

“With these simple gestures of holding up the bread and the wine with the simple words, “This is my body ... this is my blood,” Jesus is saying that all earlier deliverances, the earlier sacrifices, the lambs at Passover, were pointing to himself...



## Rooted in the Passover

“Just as the first Passover was observed the night before God redeemed the Israelites from slavery through the blood of the lambs, this Passover meal [the Lord’s Supper] was eaten the night before God redeemed the world from sin and death through the blood of Jesus.”



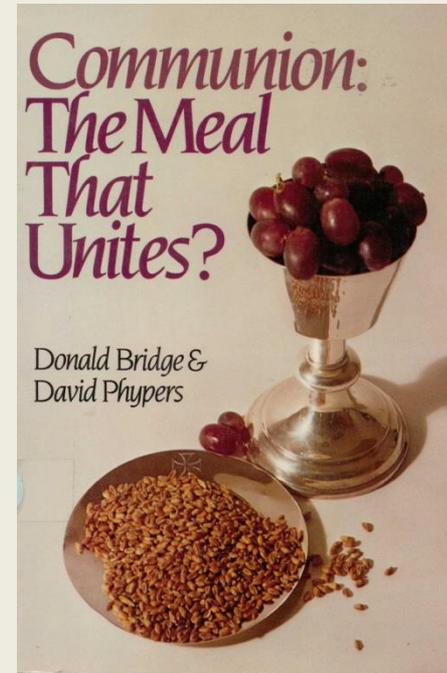
## Christ [is] our sacrificial lamb (1 Cor.5:7)

### Catholic and Orthodox opinion:

‘in the eucharist, in some way and in some sense, the bread and the wine become the actual body and blood of Christ.’

### Protestant teaching:

‘adopted the view that Christ’s words about the bread and wine at the Last Supper should be understood figuratively.’



## Remember and Proclaim

- *'do this in remembrance of me'*
- *'proclaim the Lord's death until he comes'*

**It's not about me, it's about HIM!**

## Participation in the Body and Blood of Christ

*'Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.'*

(1 Cor.10:16,17)

# Participation in the Body and Blood of Christ

**Bread**



*The Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling  
among us. We have seen  
his glory... John.1:14*

**Cup**



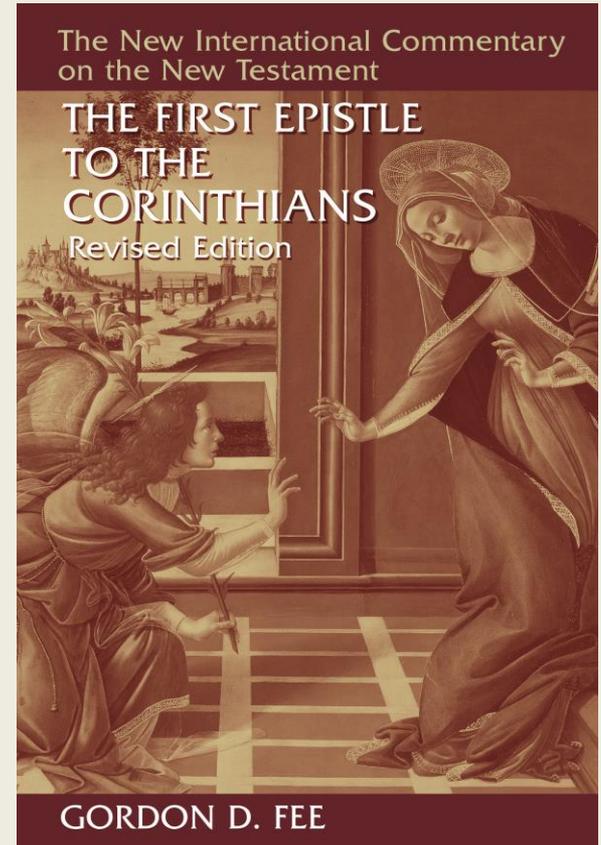
*It was not with perishable  
things... that you were  
redeemed, but with the  
precious blood of Christ.*

**1 Pet.1:18**

## Participation in the Body and Blood of Christ

‘By their abuse of one another, they were also abusing the one through whose death and resurrection they had been brought to life and formed into this new fellowship, his body the church.’

Gordon D. Fee



## Summary – 5 Headings

- Communion Practice of Early Christians
- Rooted in the Passover
- Christ is our Sacrificial Lamb
- Remember and Proclaim
- Participation in the Body and Blood of Christ

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