



# **FEEDING ON THE TRUE BREAD**

**Grace Communion International**  
**Minister: Eric Vautour**  
**Date: August 19, 2018**

During today's sermon, we are going to look and think about what Jesus said about himself that he is the true bread of life.

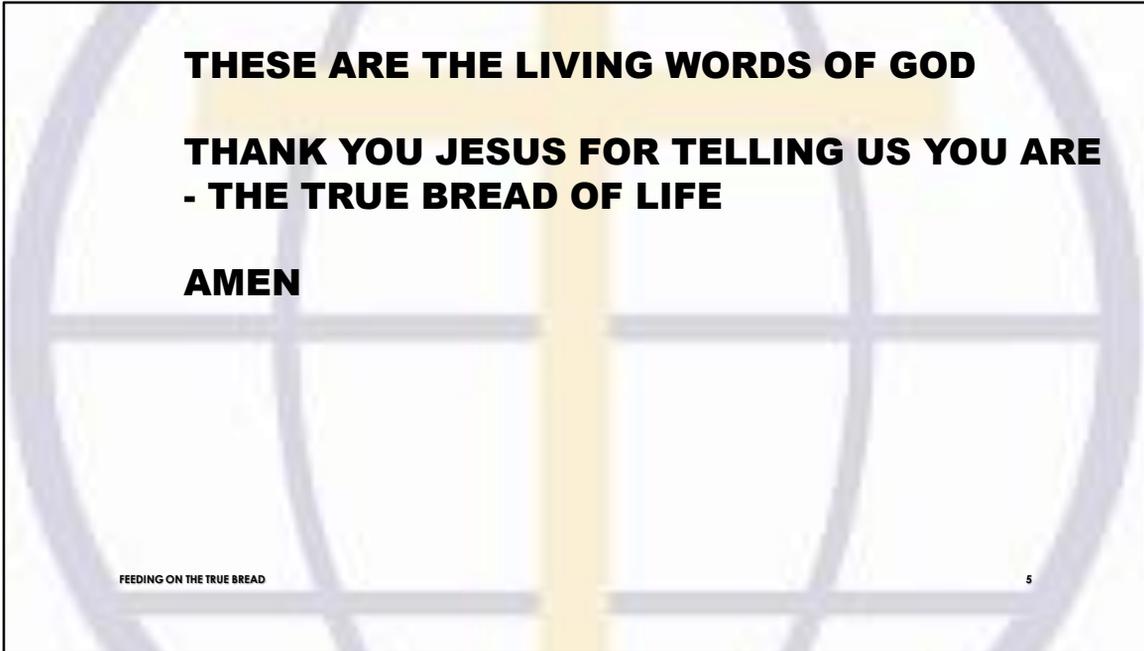
**SCRIPTURE  
READING:**

**JOHN 6:50-59**

**“50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”**

- **53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.**

**56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.” (Joh 6:50-59 ESV)**



**THESE ARE THE LIVING WORDS OF GOD**

**THANK YOU JESUS FOR TELLING US YOU ARE  
- THE TRUE BREAD OF LIFE**

**AMEN**

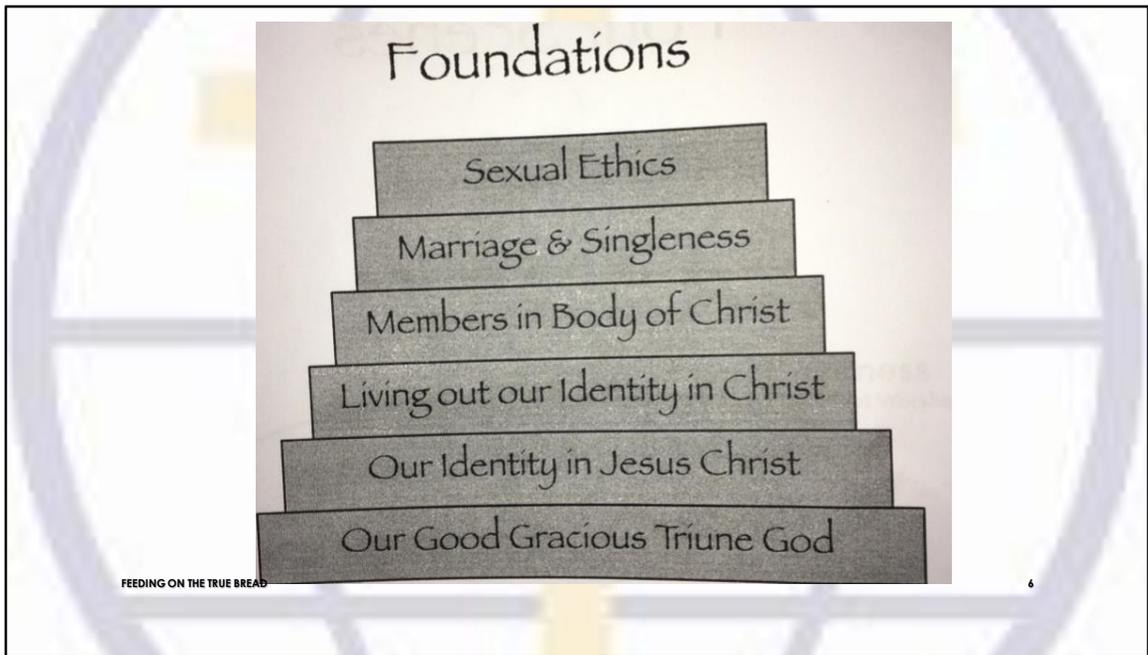
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While we were at the Canadian ministerial conference, Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Cathy Deddo spoke about our Christian foundations.

During the conference, they taught us about sexual ethics but only as it was rooted in the triune God. The foundation applies not only to sexual ethics but to every aspects of our Christian life. To give you a picture of what they covered, in the next slide, I will show you what they saw as the foundation of Christian sexual ethics, with which I completely agree with.

But again, sexual ethics are one part of the Christian life. On top of the pyramid that I'm going to show you there could be other aspects of the Christian life such as work, our speech, how we interact with other Christians and with the world. The list can go on but the foundation is always the same.



The foundation of everything is our good gracious triune God who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who have been living in unity yet in diversity of their individual identities from all eternity. In other words, God is one in Trinity and Trinity in unity. The Nicene Creed explains it very well. The following are brief extracts from the Nicene Creed:

- **We believe in one God,**
- **the Father, the Almighty,** maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen
- **We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
- **We believe in the Holy Spirit,** the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

We believe this because that is how God reveals himself in Jesus Christ, the living word and through his written word, the Bible.

Our triune God has lived in perfect love and in perfect unity from all eternity desiring

to share his relationship with men and women through his eternal Son who was made man. We were created because of the love of God and not because we were needed by him. Creation is very much a gift of grace.

I'm just giving you a very brief synopsis because this could be the subject of several sermons.

**The second part of the foundation is that our identity is found in Jesus Christ.** This is very important for all Christians to realize. We cannot define who we are apart from Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect representative of all humanity. It is in him that God the Father has reconciled us to himself, as we read in second Corinthians 5.

If we try to find our identity in any other source other than Jesus Christ then, that becomes idolatry.

**The third part is that we live out our identity in Jesus Christ.** We live out of who we are as God's adopted children. The Holy Spirit has inspired the writers of the Bible to define who we are. For example, the apostle Peter was inspired to write: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1 Pe 2:9 ESV).

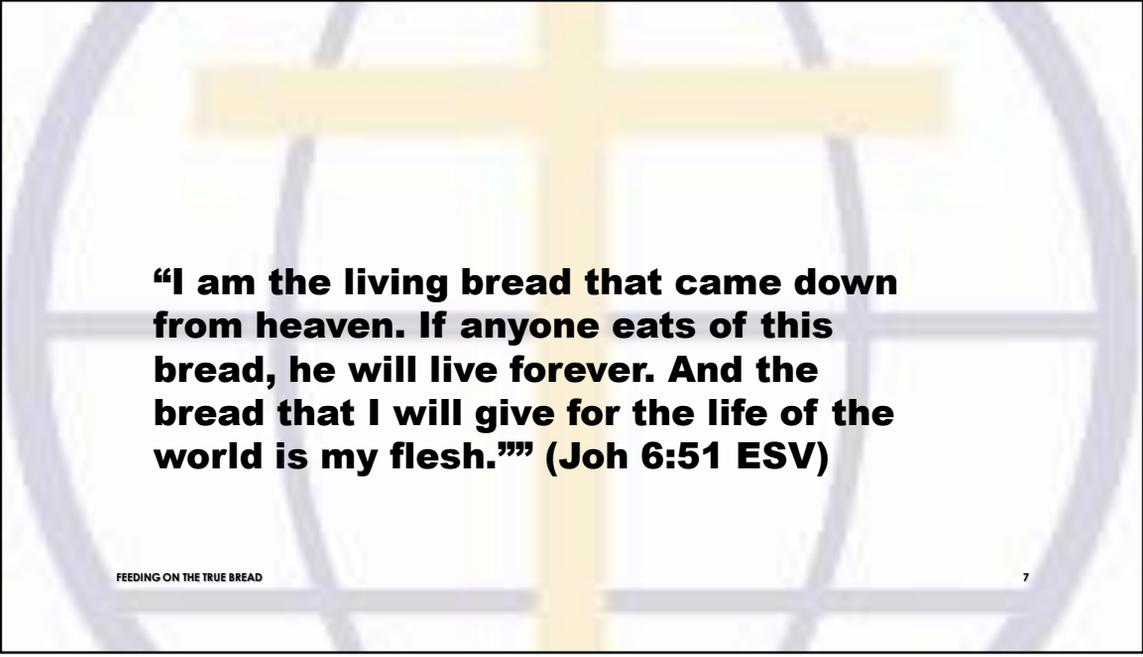
God is the one who gives us our identity. We are not to look at our own definition of who we are because, if it does not line up with what God says, then it is not founded on anything solid.

**The fourth part of our identity is that we are members of the community, members of the body of Christ, members of his church.**

The solid rock God the Father gave us is Jesus Christ.

If we try to build any kind of ethnic based on anything other this solid foundation, we are taking from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In other words, trying to define what is good and what is evil apart from our dependence on God is taking from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis).

Today, in this passage of Scripture, we are going to consider is part of this very important foundation—how Jesus describes himself while teaching in their synagogue at Capernaum.



**“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”” (Joh 6:51 ESV)**

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Some of the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith that I firmly believe are:

- 1) Jesus came from heaven sent forth by God the Father.
- 2) He was incarnate in our flesh, born of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) He was born, taking on our fallen flesh, grew up as a man, died a brutal death on the cross, was resurrected from the dead and ascended back to heaven.
- 4) He is both fully God and fully man in his one person or being. He has reconciled God and humanity in his own Person. The mystery of Jesus Christ’s divine-human unity surpasses our understanding; we believe it and affirm it by faith given to us by the Holy Spirit enables us to affirm it. This is how Jesus describes himself in the gospel of John.

- 1) I am the bread of life [6:35, 48](#), 6:51.
- 2) I am the light of the world [8:12](#); 9:5
- 3) I am the door of the sheep [10:7](#),
- 4) I am the good shepherd [10:11, 14](#).
- 5) I am the resurrection and the life [11:25](#)
- 6) I am the way, the truth, and the life [14:6](#).
- 7) I am the true vine [15:1](#)

These are foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. Believing that Jesus is the truth, we can be sure that when he says that he is the bread that came down from heaven, we can be sure that he is who he says he is. He is the source of eternal life and there is no other.

We need to be in relationship with him as we put our trust in his faithfulness and trustworthiness to give us eternal life.

Some of the things that Jesus says are foolishness to the unconverted human mind. It was very difficult for people who heard his teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum to accept what he said.

For example, drinking blood was completely forbidden in the Old Testament law. **“But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” (Ge 9:4 ESV).**

From the Old Testament teaching eating someone’s flesh was an image of an enemy being against someone else. David uses this image in Psalm 27. **“1 ¶ ‘OF DAVID.’ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.” (Ps 27:1–2 ESV)**

The International Bible Commentary from FF Bruce says on page 574, ***“his enemies are like wild beasts out to destroy him completely”.***

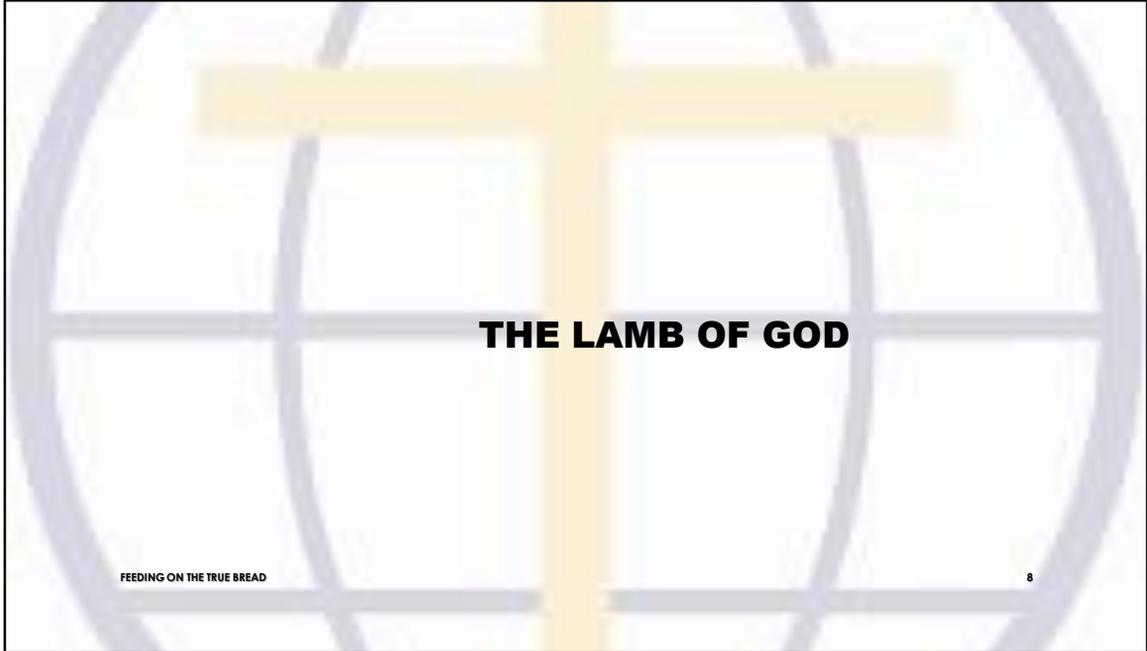
Can you imagine being part of the audience and being steeped in the Old Testament laws hearing Jesus saying that to have life one must eat his flesh and drink his blood?

These were scandalous and shocking statements coming from the mouth of Jesus. They are still today for those who reject Jesus and his word.

When the Jews began to dispute among themselves and questioning what Jesus said, Jesus reaffirmed very clearly and repeated what he said.

**“53 So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.’ (Joh 6:53–57 ESV)**





Jesus came to the earth as the Lamb of God.

Jesus is not only the great Shepherd. He is the Lamb of God. In the Bible, lambs are associated with gentleness, innocence and dependence.

Jesus is compared to a lamb. In the prophecy of Isaiah, we read the following, **“4 ¶ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isa 53:4–5 ESV)**

**“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.” (Isa 53:7 ESV)**

In the New Testament, we read a similar statement. **“Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Co 5:7 ESV).**

As we come to accept Jesus' sacrifice in our place, we become unleavened, that is we receive the righteousness of Jesus Christ as our own!

Jesus knew that he came to the earth to die for us to free us from the grips of the devil, sin and death.

What is amazing to me about Jesus is that he took on the suffering willingly for all of us. In our raw human nature, when somebody wrongs us, we want to defend ourselves. We want to obliterate our enemy or enemies. We want to inflict pain on them so they will not inflict pain on us.

However, that was not Jesus' attitude. He willingly went to the cross. He was brutally beaten. He was insulted. He was punched. He was mocked. Except for a few women and the apostle John, he was left to himself at the cross to suffer this agony for all of us.

This attitude of Jesus of willingly submitting himself to the brutality of humanity out of love is astounding. Instead of fighting back those who were brutalizing him, he said, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."** ... (Lu 23:34 ESV). He was and is truly the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for all of us.

In the Roman world, there was no more shameful death than the criminal's death on the cross.

Quotes from the respected commentator William Barclay, **"There was no more terrible death than death by crucifixion. Even the Romans themselves regarded it with a shudder of horror. Cicero declared that it was 'the most cruel and horrifying death'. Tacitus said that it was a 'despicable death'.**

[\(https://craigtowens.com/2014/04/18/the-horrors-of-crucifixion/\)](https://craigtowens.com/2014/04/18/the-horrors-of-crucifixion/)

How can one believe that the Eternal Son of God, coming from glory and love in the oneness of the relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit could humble himself to such a low level for us. The Creator accepted to become a creation to rescue his creation from complete alienation and destruction.

It is an amazing miracle and gift from that we can come to faith. It does not make sense to the natural human mind.

Jesus knew that he was completely dependent on Father for his life. Jesus lived because of the Father. As Jesus was completely dependent on the Father, we are

completely dependent on Jesus for life. We need to feed on him.

Later on in the chapter, Jesus tells us that the flesh, our fallen flesh is of no help. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us life. The words that we have just read are spirit and life.

The only way to believe is to be given that gift by God the Father. **‘And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” (Joh 6:65 ESV)**

Conversion is a gift of God. We cannot convert anyone. We are called to be witnesses. In other words, we are to participate in what Jesus is doing in our life and in the life of the world, in the life of our community, by being a witness.

The apostles and disciples were living witnesses of Jesus earthly life, death, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

Although we have not seen Jesus in the flesh, we know he exists because we are in relationship with him. We are witnesses that Jesus is alive. We are his ambassadors. Jesus has called us, as we are, to be his messengers on the earth.

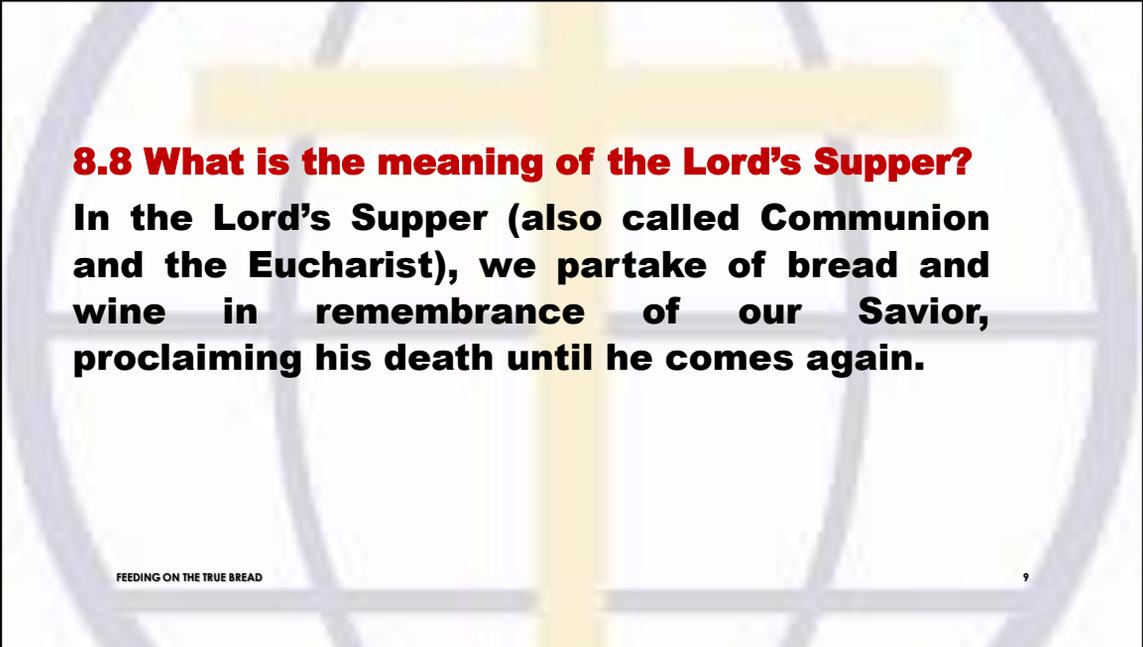
The only way to be able to do this is to be united to Jesus in faith. We cannot represent him on earth if we do not have a relationship with him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said about the bread, **“this is my body which is for you do this in remembrance of me.**

After supper, he took the cup and said, **“this cup is the new covenant in my blood do this often as you drink it in remembrance of me”. (1 Corinthians 11)**

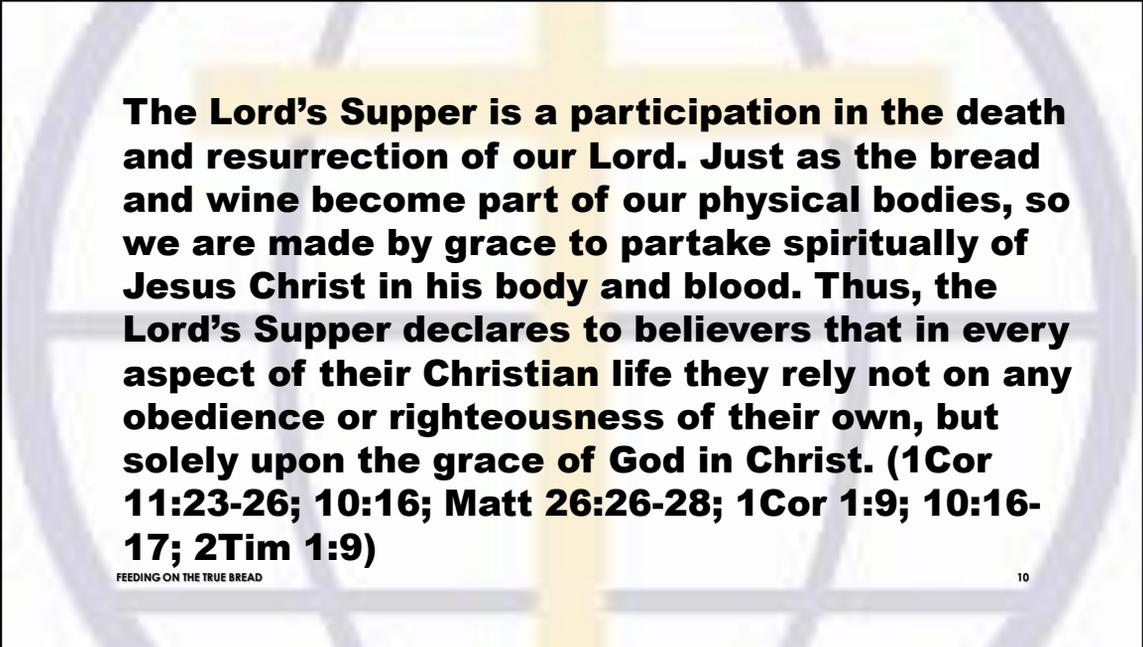
When Jesus said this at the last supper, the apostles present at the meal realized that it was symbolic in the sense they knew they were not literally eating the body of Jesus or drinking his blood. It was symbolic of the fact that Jesus invites us to be in relationship with him in such intimacy that we live in him and he lives in us.

Here is how the new booklet WE BELIEVE describes communion.



## **8.8 What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?**

**In the Lord's Supper (also called Communion and the Eucharist), we partake of bread and wine in remembrance of our Savior, proclaiming his death until he comes again.**



**The Lord's Supper is a participation in the death and resurrection of our Lord. Just as the bread and wine become part of our physical bodies, so we are made by grace to partake spiritually of Jesus Christ in his body and blood. Thus, the Lord's Supper declares to believers that in every aspect of their Christian life they rely not on any obedience or righteousness of their own, but solely upon the grace of God in Christ. (1Cor 11:23-26; 10:16; Matt 26:26-28; 1Cor 1:9; 10:16-17; 2Tim 1:9)**

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Jesus gave us the sacrament of communion to remember, to never forget what he has willingly done for us by coming to the earth from the glory of heaven to live as one of us and to die and suffer the brutality of death of the Roman cross.

He gave us the sacrament of communion to remember that his death was not the final word. He gave us the sacrament to remind us that death could not hold him down. He conquered death. He was resurrected. By participating in the sacrament of communion, we proclaim and remember our hope that Jesus will return to the earth to make everything new including the renewal of human heart of all those who have and who will come to faith in him when he calls them to himself in his time.

Taking communion is an act of worship, an act of faith that the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is for us and not against us. Jesus entered our depraved and sinful human condition to completely undo it!

What a miracle! What love!

Let us pray