

Home Group Notes

Prayers of the Communion Service 2

Humble Access

1. The prayer that we are looking at today is called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'. How do you think of humility? What is the difference between self-defeat and humility? (c.f. Philippians 2:1-11)

<p>We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.</p>	<p>Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners.</p>
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2. How good are you? How good do you need to be to be accepted by God?
3. In what ways should we presume to come to the Lord's table?
4. Are there circumstances or situations when we should refrain from taking communion?
5. Why is it important to 'examine ourselves' before we take communion? (c.f. 1 Corinthians 11:28)
6. What is God's nature / property / substance? How do we compare?
7. How does the phrase about us not being worthy to gather up the crumbs under God's table sit with you? (c.f. Mark 7:24-30)

So, in the light of stating what God is like and humbly acknowledging who we are before him, so we pray...

<p>Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen</p>	<p>So cleanse and feed us With the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen</p>
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8. This prayer is not saying that we literally or physically eat Jesus' flesh or drink his blood, so what do those words mean? How does this affect our lives as followers of Jesus?
9. What do you understand to be taking place at communion? What does God do?
10. Do we have to take communion to be forgiven?
11. What if we don't really understand the theology about communion? Is this a prerequisite for taking it?
12. What does it mean to 'dwell in him, and he is us' / 'live in us and we in him'? (c.f. John 15:4-11)
13. Why are the body and blood of Jesus so important for us to be able to sit and eat at God's table in his heavenly kingdom? Who's idea was this?

For today's prayer spend some time thanking God that he has a merciful nature. Thank God that he took the initiative and provided salvation in Jesus. Pray that we will truly dwell in him and allow him to dwell in us. Pray that Jesus in our lives will make a difference both in us and in our neighbourhoods.