their partnership to the gospel had to be *literal* and *actual* because Paul added: "...all of you share in God's grace with me." (v. 7)

- d. St. Paul wrote: "I pray that you may be active in *sharing* your faith..." (NIV Philemon 1:6) Not just in thinking about it, but in *actually* telling others the good news of Jesus Christ!
- e. Furthermore, those who eat the bread and drink the wine in an unworthy manner are "guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord." (NIV 1 Corinthians 11:27) Therefore, the body and the blood must actually be present!

All five examples noted above help us to better understand the meaning of the Greek word " $\kappa o \nu \omega \nu i \alpha$ " and the literal – though mysterious – connection that actually exists between bread and body, wine and blood!

The **GREAT** Assurance



 In *reality* we have sinned, and *deserve* the worst! Nevertheless, our gracious heavenly Father wants us to know that we *actually* and *literally* have His forgiveness in Christ!

- So what is our assurance? Our reception of Jesus' very body and very blood! The same body He gave and the same blood He shed on the cross!
- 3. <u>How is that possible</u>? *By God's almighty power!* Jesus said: "Take, eat; this is **My body**... this cup is the new testament in **My blood**... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."¹

<u>Conclusion</u>: As we receive the **bread** and **wine**, we also receive the *very* **body** and *very* **blood**. Furthermore, *knowing we are sinners and having God's gift of faith*, we know we are *fully forgiven in Christ!*

Find Out More

See all three Lord's Supper brochures; contact the pastor with your questions, concerns!

Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"
Location:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 (South of Pleasant Valley)
PH; EM:	440-845-2230; pastor@blc7500.com
	(Last Update: 10-17)

¹ The Words of Institution are based on the sum of these references – Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

The Lord's Supper

Part 2 of 3

- → The Four Elements
- → The Real Connection
- → The Great Assurance



Introduction

Most of us have been confirmed; therefore, we *should* have studied <u>what</u> we receive in the Lord's Supper and <u>why</u>. However:

- Maybe you never quite understood.
- Maybe you have forgotten.
- Maybe, over time, you have embraced logic over the clear teachings of God's Word, the Bible.

Whatever your situation, a careful review will help you:

- Better understand what you are receiving!
- Be more certain of God's full forgiveness in Christ!

The FOUR Elements



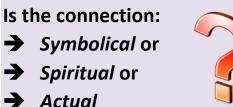


- <u>They are all noted in this verse</u>: "Is not <u>the cup</u> [*the wine*] <u>of thanksgiving</u> for which we give thanks a *participation* in <u>the blood of Christ</u>? And is not <u>the</u> <u>bread</u> that we break a *participation* in <u>the body of Christ</u>?" (NIV 1 Corinthians 10:16) Paul Kretzmann made this comment: "We have here the essence of the Lord's Supper in one [verse]: there are the earthly, visible elements, **bread** and **wine**; there are the invisible blessings, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ..."²
- 2. <u>This demonstration will help you</u> remember the four elements:
 - a. I have four boards, each containing one word (bread, body, wine, blood) and one small hole. The four boards represent the four elements we receive.
 - b. Our Altar Guild prepares for the Lord's Supper by placing unleavened bread (*in the form of individual wafers*) and wine on our

altar. Then, by the power of God, through the words of institution:

- i. The body (of Christ) is joined or *locked* to the bread, while the blood (of Christ) is joined or *locked* to the wine.
- ii. The bread did <u>not</u> become the body of Christ, <u>nor</u> did the wine become the blood of Christ. Instead, the body was sacramentally or mysteriously united to the bread, while the blood was sacramentally or mysteriously united to the wine. But how do we know about such a connection? Let's go on to the next section!

The REAL Connection



- Some say <u>the connection is symbolical</u>: The bread symbolizes the body of Christ, while the wine symbolizes the blood of Christ.
- Others say <u>the connection is spiritual</u>: As we receive the bread and wine on earth, we spiritually commune with the body and blood of Christ in heaven.

- Still others say <u>an actual change occurs</u>: The bread becomes the body of Christ, while the wine becomes the blood of Christ.
- But what does the Bible say? Going 4. back to 1 Corinthians 10:16: The wine is "a *participation* in the blood of Christ," while "the bread [is] a participation in the body of Christ." The key word is "*participation*," which comes from the Greek word "κοινωνία." That same word can also be translated: "fellowship" (Acts 2:42 NIV), "communion" (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRS), "partnership" (Philippians 1:5 NIV), and "sharing" (Philemon 1:6 NIV). Notice how the following uses of "κοινωνία" point to a literal / actual connection between two things:
 - a. The New Testament believers "devoted themselves to...the *fellowship*..." (NIV Acts 2:42) *They were literally together with each other!*
 - b. Christians are *actually* in *"communion* [with] the Holy Spirit..." (NRS 2 Corinthians 13:13) The Bible says: "Do you not know that your body <u>is</u> a temple of the Holy Spirit, who <u>is</u> [*literally*] in you..." (NIV 1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - c. St. Paul wrote to the Philippians:
 "I always pray with joy because of your *partnership* in the gospel..."
 (NIV Philippians 1:4-5) Their connection,

² Paul E. Kretzmann, <u>Popular Commentary of the</u> <u>Bible</u>, <u>The New Testament</u> (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1923), 2:136.