

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time
Sunday Forum – April 10, 2016

**Baptism and Eucharist:
Sacraments Create Oneness of Life in Christ**



Contemporary Last Supper – Photographer: David La Chapelle

In Christ

Embeddedness in community/communities in the ancient world

Stratified and divided

Paul's Understanding of Being in Christ

Oneness in Christ

No stratification, division, or separation

Fully at one with Christ and fully at one with one another

Galatians 3:28 – There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Revolutionary community where unity across difference is experienced

Explosive growth of early church – rarity and attraction of a community of one-ness

Companionship and compassion

Community of shared resources

Acts 2:44-45

Baptism

Dying and Rising in Christ

Dying to old ways of life

Rising to new ways of life

Dying to separation and division

Sin as separation and division

Rising to oneness, community, and companionship

Sacramental practice

Font as new womb

8-sided – 8th day – New Creation

Baptized naked – born again – equality without markers of clothing/status

Washing away separation

Anointed – gifted with new life in Christ and community with one another

Anointing with unity, community, and companionship

Eucharist

Body and Blood of Christ

Paul's understanding of bread and wine as uniting members of the Body into oneness

Bread as symbol of unity in Christ – One loaf – One Body – One community

Blood as symbol of unity in Christ – One blood – No divisions – One people/family

Sacramental practice

Eucharist embedded in agape meal

Wait, share, eat together

Shared Bread and Wine – as shared Body and Blood – of Christ – and of one another

Eat and drink discerning the body

Discern oneness in Christ

Enact oneness with one another

If not, the Eucharist has failed – judgment instead of redemption

Acting as if death and resurrection have not happened, are not real

Implications for Life at Trinity

How should we enact these truths in our liturgies of Baptism and Eucharist?

How should we be with one another during these Sacraments?

Baptismal practices

Eucharistic practices

How be with one another in the rest of our life together?

Clothing – Washing

Eating – Coffee Hour

Kitchen and Copley Square

Welcoming

Oneness in Christ

Acts 2

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Romans 6

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.


⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 11

¹⁷Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper.

²¹For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²²What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgement against themselves. ³⁰For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.