

God Is...Near

Matthew 1:18-24

Communion means a close intimate connection

- 1 Corinthians 10:16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?
- 1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1. Jesus came so we could connect _____.

John 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- "Know" means knowledge acquired through experience.
- Romans 5:8-11 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

2. Jesus came so we could connect with _____.

- Sin causes us not only to turn away from God but to turn in toward ourselves, which hurts our relationships with others.
- 1 Corinthians 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 11:18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.
- See Matthew 5:23-24
- John 17:20-21 That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

3. Jesus came so we could connect with _____ for our lives.

- The issue is not what is my purpose but what is God's purpose for my life.
- Jeremiah – Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
- How about the nation of Israel
- Israel – Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

- Paul – Galatians 1:15-16: “But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...”
- King David – Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep.
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 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.”

1 Corinthians 11:25 In 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.”