



Communion at Pine Grove

By the Elders at PGBC – June 2008

What is the significance of communion at Pine Grove?

Communion is the time during the Sunday service when we, as a body of believers, pause to remember the death, resurrection, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a time of reflection, remembrance and testimony. It is also, we believe, the most important time of the service, and for this reason will not be rushed or treated as a last-minute addition.

We use bread and grape juice to recreate our Lord's last supper before His crucifixion. This is done out of obedience, as commanded in Luke 22 and 1 Corinthians 11, and we do this weekly. We use juice instead of wine so that all may participate.

What makes communion so special is that it is a time for believers to celebrate – yes, celebrate – this most important death and resurrection, and declare to the world we await his return.

Who can take the elements?

At Pine Grove, we welcome all believers to join us in taking the elements. We do not place an age limit on communion. If a child has made a sincere profession of faith, and understands what communion represents, we would welcome that child to take part. We leave it to parents to decide when their faith-professing children can take the bread and juice. If a parent has any doubts or questions, they are more than welcome to speak with an elder for guidance or advice.

How should I prepare?

Scripture provides us with guidance on how we should approach communion. First, we must be assured we have accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Taking the elements as a non-Christian threatens to "arouse the Lord's jealousy"; in fact, Scripture calls it a sin against the church (see 1 Cor. 10:22 and Cor. 11:27). Clearly, the Bible takes this seriously, as should we all. If you doubt whether you are a Christian, or if Christ is truly in your life, feel free to speak with an elder in confidence.

Scripture instructs us to examine ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28) before taking the elements. Spend time beforehand in quiet prayer and thought; are there issues with God that need to be confessed? Scripture also encourages us to reconcile with others before worship (Mat. 5:23-24). If there is division or conflict in your life, we encourage you to take those first reconciliation steps before Sunday.

Can I let the elements pass by?

You can let the elements pass with no fear of being singled out or questioned. Christians are commanded to break the elements in remembrance of Christ, but should never do so in "an unworthy manner" (1 Cor. 11:37). If, on reflection, you feel you should not take part in communion for reasons noted above, or cannot take the elements for medical reasons, please pass the elements on.

What if I have questions?

Feel free to call any elder you are comfortable with. We would love to talk with you!