

## *What Christian Israelites Believe ...*

### **12. About Holy Communion**

Holy communion (also known as the Eucharist) is a holy sacrament wherein bread and wine are used to remember Jesus' sacrificial death, through which we have the salvation of our souls. Jesus directly asked his disciples to perform communion in all four gospels:

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.” Mark 14:22-24 (see also Luke 22:19-20, Matthew 26:26-28 and John 6:53-57).

As Christians, we respect the principle of the Eucharist sacrament, which assists those aspiring for soul salvation to affirm their faith and dedication to Jesus Christ. We also understand that it honours his sacrificial death, which allowed us to be reconciled with God and for our souls to be saved.

However, as Christian Israelites, we believe in the full redemption of spirit, soul, and body, as spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 5:23:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

[See *What Christian Israelites Believe About the Faith of the Church* for more information.]

Hebrews 6:1 tells us:

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”

As Christian Israelites hope for the salvation of both the soul and body, we do not participate in communion, which relates to the salvation of the soul only. We seek to “go on unto perfection”, that is, for our flesh to be purified from evil and made immortal through following the teachings of both the Old and New Testaments:

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48.

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13.

Communion also doesn’t feature in the Christian Israelite Church as the greater focus is on Jesus Christ’s resurrection rather than his death, wherein he gained power over death and sin:

“That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life ... Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:4, 9-11.

“If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching in vain, and your faith is also vain ... ye are yet in your sins ... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive ... The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet.” 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 22, 26-27.

Rather than holding communion to remember Jesus’ death, Christian Israelites celebrate the fact that, through his resurrection, Jesus had victory over Satan and death:

“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” 1 Corinthians 15:54-55.

Christian Israelites also focus on and look forward to Jesus Christ’ impending return as the greatest celebration to come.