

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Today's 3 Lessons
August 1, 2021

Communion in Christ is a living active busy calling.

- Israel's Elders, witnessed Yahweh's work: 10 plagues, delivered at the Red Sea
- Led by the Glory of Yahweh, seeing God at Mt. Sinai, hearing his word
- It was clear: this is community created by Yahweh, called to be his people
- Accepting this calling, God seals the covenant, celebrates/confirms it with the Elders
- Created exclusively by God, called to a **community** living in and living out his word
- This reality of God's community - his church - is clearly taught in all 3 Lessons

Communion in Christ is a living active busy calling.

- ❖ *one body..., one faith, ...one God and Father of all, who is ...through all, and in us all.*
 - God's gifts of faith (new living self) brings us into communion with him and the body
 - The Church is **not** a building or even an organization with hierarchy. It's *the body*.
 - Being in the body is the new identity and new calling of the rescued people of God.
 - The body is **not** a bus/ship of passengers sitting and waiting to enter God's presence.
 - In his Introduction to his Commentary on Romans, Luther wrote:
 - ♦ *Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. ...Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.*
 - This saving faith makes **Communion in Christ a living active busy calling.**
 - ♦ *...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. Live...*
 - ♦ Passive *participation* in the body - coming, consuming, leaving - misses the calling.
 - It is a calling worked and given by God.
 - ♦ **God did it all.** That's our secure and firm status - the basis for faith's confidence.
 - ♦ God's clear **purpose**: rescue and restore us to be his people remade in his holy image
 - No small task. Nothing short of God working in and through you. *Sanctification*
 - **Communion in Christ is a living active busy calling.** Don't short-circuit his work!
- ❖ The One God is the source of his one-of-a-kind common-union
 - ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.*
 - Any spiritual *oneness* that is outside of *in and on the Lord* is united in death
 - ♦ Today's Gospel: *popular theology of and by the people* = not treating Jesus as Lord.
 - ♦ False ecumenism of today - *Christians* not one in Christ, **one in a man-made altar**
 - ♦ Refusing to join them in their lies, they accuse the faithful of harming *peace*
 - ³ *Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
 - ♦ *Maintain the unity created by the Spirit. Not maintained with a man-made unity.*
 - ♦ *The bond of peace* is a Spirit-created bond, **broken** by breaking away from the word.
 - Silencing God's Law to achieve tolerance's peace is mob rule, not God's reign.
 - ♦ *The bond of peace* - through Jesus' blood - dwells with God where he dwells.

- ❖ Communion in Christ: Called to live as God's community serving God's mission.
 - Communion is **not** just a list of churches that share a common message/mission.
 - Communion is **more than** a list of places where you can share the Lord's Supper
 - It's a **community of people created by God's love to love one another**.
 - ◆ *...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. ² Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love.*
 - ◆ *...speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, ...the head.*
 - ◆ *He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.*
 - ◆ This is not *be polite and nice at a distance "love"!* - disconnected, little interaction
 - Look to **the Lord of the community** for **purpose, goals, roles, callings, and service**.
 - ◆ Sin took us out of communion with God. His goal is to undo sin's damage.
 - ◆ God's mission - our mission and calling: *...all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ.*
 - God's goal is much bigger than most Christians perceive!
 - While all this is worked by God through his word - his mission involves us.
 - ⁷ *...to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift...*
 - ¹¹ *He himself gave the apostles, ...the pastors and teachers, ¹² for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ.*
 - It does take the service of many to operate a congregation & its building.
 - That's **not** the church's mission. That **facilitates** its **real mission**: be community
 - Each believer is placed in a church community to grow in maturity - being trained to live as God's restored people. And to help others grow mature in Christ.
 - Look again at the three passages at the top of this page.
 - This calls for connections, communication, sharing, modeling - person to person
 - **It is abundantly clear!** Conduct worthy of our Christian calling calls for community!
 - ◆ It's foolish to claim you can be a Christian & not be part of a community of believers
 - In view of our texts, who is their Lord? **Jesus-my-way leaves me in charge.**
 - ◆ Submission to the Lord Jesus is submission to his mission and work.
 - Jesus knows we need shepherds to train, instruct, and be accountable to.
 - Jesus knows we need a community of believers to bring us the fullness of Christ.
 - Jesus knows we need to live our love helping other believers for mutual maturity.

Communion in Christ is a living active busy calling.

- This calling advances God's mission of the gospel.
 - ◆ Christ died to bring us back to God - on his terms, not ours.
 - ◆ That's how he sets us free from communion with sin and death for communion with him and all his people.