

Follow-up Studies: The New Testament Church— Three Aspects

As a church we do our best to base our doctrine and practices on biblical principles and examples. This study provides scriptural explanation for these practices from the New Testament.

Communion (Lord's Supper)

- Matthew 26:26-29—Passover supper (Jewish background). Bread represents the body of Christ, and wine represents the blood of Jesus.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23ff—Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. It is a proclamation of the Lord's death until he comes. Examine yourself before eating.
- Acts 20:7—Christians came together in order to break bread.
- It appears from the evidence of the New Testament and that of early church history that the Christians broke bread together at least once a week.
- Suggested: Exodus 12 (historical background), Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-20, John 6:48-58, Acts 2:42.

Contribution (for needs of the church)

- Matthew 6:19-21—Your treasure is where your heart is.
- Matthew 6:24—Cannot serve both God and money, so make sure that God is first.
- Proverbs 3:9-10—Are you honoring God with your money? Give him the “firstfruits” of your income. Be responsible when you are away; leave your contribution behind (the church needs it) or make it up when you return.
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2—Taking up a collection to meet the needs of the poor is biblical.
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15—Advance planning.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15—Good material on sacrificial giving...
- Suggested: Exodus 36:6-7, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 6:38, 1 Timothy 6:5-10, 17.

Confession of sin

- Proverbs 28:13—You will not prosper if you keep sins inside.
- James 5:16-17—One-on-one confession of sins for prayer and healing. Ask spiritual people to pray for you. Their prayers will be effective.