

Do this in remembrance of me. When we take communion we focus on Jesus Christ. The wonderful gift he gave us. A gift of forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with God in heaven. The gift of his Holy spirit in us which is the power that we use to overcome life's struggles.

This is why communion is a celebration. That God would love us so much that he would take on all of our sins, once and for all.

It is cause for gratitude, that our God, creator of heavens and the earth would give himself up like this for us. When I think that it was my sins that put Jesus on the cross, it is very humbling.

He gave us the elements of communion to represent His gift to us.

What is bread? Grain that has been ground up and baked in the oven. Jesus, the bread of life was ground up by the religious system and the sin of humanity. He was baked in the oven of adversity and absorbed the very fire of hell for each of us. The Passover bread is without leaven. Leaven is a symbol in the OT of sin. Looked at the matza, it was pierced and stripped. As Jesus was whipped and stabbed.

What is wine? Crushed grapes. Isa 53 tells us that "He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Jesus celebrated the Lord's Supper with those he served with in ministry. A group of people from widely differing backgrounds who came together with one purpose (although they were slow to figure it out)..... To serve Him.

We are also a diverse group from very different backgrounds. We have come together with one purpose and focus..... Jesus Christ. He should be the focal point of all that we do. Our service is not about Saddleback Church, Pastor Rick, small groups, or our small groups team. Our service is about the power and the blood of Jesus Christ. About the power of His Holy Spirit which can transform lives that are in community together, sharing their hurts habits and hang-ups, and surrendering to the truths of God's Word. Our groups are the vehicle to get to the goal, lives surrendered to Jesus Christ.

When we think about Jesus Christ and our ministry what comes to mind?

Answers....

Pray

Serve elements