RECONCILIATION THROUGH THE CROSS

Sometimes, when I reflect on the practice of the Lord's Supper, it strikes me that this is a very strange thing that we do. I know that it is a practice that is intended to call our minds to the cross, but the observance itself—the consumption of a pinch of bread and a swallow of the fruit of the vine—seems random and so *disconnected* from the world around us and all of its struggles. It seems like an *impractical practice*.

We live in a world beset by so much division and controversy. Disunity is all around us. What does a sampling of bread and juice have to say for such a world?

> ***11*** *Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— **12** remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
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> ***14*** *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17** He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*
>
> *(Ephesians 2.11-18)*

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul was directly addressing the division between Jews and Gentiles that existed there, and explaining how, through the redemptive work of Jesus, the ground for this division had been removed. At the cross, Jesus had made possible reconciliation between humans and God, but also, between humans and one another. Jesus' goal was to create in himself a "new humanity", and this new humanity is characterized by peace and reconciliation with God and with one another.

When we come together and take of the bread and the cup, we are reminded of the reconciling work of Jesus at Calvary. We are reminded that we are part of a new humanity,

where division and factions have no place. We are reminded that we are called to live out a new reality that Jesus made possible, where we are characterized by abiding unity as we live out the peace and reconciliation that God offers.

And in the act of partaking itself, we reflect this new reality: all over the world, people of all different origins, countries, ethnicities, and circumstances, share in the same Supper. We proclaim our unity in Christ, as we partake of the meal that reminds us of the act that made our unity possible.

What could be more practical than that?

Let's pray together for the bread and fruit of the vine.

*This Lord's Supper meditation was downloaded from **lukedockery.com/free-resources**. Check there for other resources including Bible class series, stand-alone lessons, and eBooks.*