

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Cup of the New Covenant



For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do

in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

I Corinthians, 11:23-29

This passage from the inspired pen of the inimitable Saint Paul sets forth extremely profound truths concerning one of the most cherished orthodox church doctrines: the Sacrament of Communion. However, the full mystic meaning of these words can be fully understood only by going much deeper than the surface or literal interpretation.

The Western Wisdom Teaching, given out by the highly enlightened Beings known as the Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucian Order, set forth as a basic premise the explanation that the Christ, the highest Initiate of the Archangelic life wave, came of His own free will to the earth when a large part of its inhabitants were at the point of retrogression, lived for three and one half years in the dense and vital bodies of the man Jesus (a high initiate of the human life wave), preached and taught the precepts of the

coming Age, was crucified, and entered into our planet by means of the flowing blood to become its indwelling Planetary Spirit. He must remain in this cramping condition until we, in sufficient numbers "evolve our own soul bodies to the point where they may float the earth."

Every year since Golgotha this mighty cosmic Love Power has welled forth anew, carrying with it the Life necessary for the growth of all vegetation. Thus the grain and the grape come to us through the sacrifice of our blessed Savior, and we actually partake of His "body and blood" when we eat and drink. Unless we receive this nourishment for our bodies in the proper spirit of appreciation for His love and constant suffering in our behalf, we "eat this bread, and drink of this cup, unworthily."

However, there is an even greater mystery hidden in Christ Jesus' words concerning the Sacrament of Communion. They also refer to the purity of life that is necessary for the aspirant to the spiritual heights. The lower nature must be transcended by the pure and helpful life; the passion engendered by the Lucifer Spirits must be transmuted by purity and loving service to others. As Max Heindel puts it:

"It was the knowledge of this absolute necessity of *chastity* (save when procreation is the object) upon the part of those who have had a spiritual awakening which dictated the words of Christ, and the apostle Paul stated an esoteric truth when he said that *those who partook of the Communion without living the life were in danger of sickness and death*. For just as under spiritual tutelage, purity of life may elevate the disciple wonderfully, so also unchastity has a much stronger effect upon his more sensitized bodies than upon those who are yet under the law, and have not become partakers of grace by the cup of the New Covenant."