**TRUE COMMUNION LOOKS FIVE WAYS (inspired from lesson Delton Porter first preached 8-7-1949)**

**I. It looks Inward to See**

1. If we are in Christ and in the Faith (**2 Corinthians 13:5**)

2. If we are guilty (**1 Corinthians 11:27-28**)

3. If we discern (**1 Corinthians 11:29**)

4. If we love Christ (**John 14:23**)

**II. It looks Backward remembering**

1. Christ’s death (**1 Corinthians 11:24-26**)

2. Christ’s love (**2 Corinthians 5:14**) – “Christ died for all”

3. Christ’s example (**Matthew 26:26-30, 1 Peter 2:21**)

4. Cost of our redemption (**Luke 22:19-20**)

**III. It looks Upward**

1. To Christ for encouragement (**Hebrews 12:1-3**) – “sitting on David’s throne”

2. For sympathy (**Hebrews 4:15-16**)

3. For intercession and mediation (**Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5**)

4. For strength (**Philippians 4:13**) – “I can do all things through Christ”

**IV. It looks Outward**

1. As a reminder and warning (**1 Corinthians 11:30-32**)

2. To show our faith (**Acts 20:7**)

3. To encourage others (**Acts 2:42-47**)

4. So people can see Jesus (**Acts 4:9-13**)

**V. It looks Forward**

1. In Preparation (**Luke 12:35-40**)

2. In Anticipation (**Philippians 3:20-21, Hebrews 9:27-28**)

3. In Patience (**Romans 8:25**)

4. To proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes (**1 Corinthians 11:26**)

**CONCLUSION**

True communion looks five ways; inward, backward, upward, outward, and forward. And it has not changed in 2,000 years. Maybe these thoughts can help each Christian here in our remembrance of our Lord’s death each Lord’s Day.

If you are not a Christian, this wonderful communion does not really apply to you. You may be able to understand what the Lord has done for you and all mankind, but you have not humbled yourself and committed your life to following him. Why not become a disciple today? Be willing to confess that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, and be baptized to wash those sins away. Then you can rejoice for the salvation of your soul. And when you rise up out of the waters of baptism you can enjoy true communion with your Savior each Lord’s Day and walk with him every day!