

Worship and orthodoxy

We are born thirsty!




If we don't satisfy our thirst?



We are not complete beings

- Love
- Faith
- Heroism
- Kindness
- Self-sacrifice



All of these
require ecstasy

Creation

- **18** The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
- **19** Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.
- But for Adam no suitable helper was found. **21** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
- **23** The man said,
- "This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."
- **24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Worship?

- Bowing down?
- Being or acting subservient?
- Being obedient?
- Singing to God?
- Kissing the icons?
- Saying words of respect and honour?
- Etc.

Worship

- Joining with another
- We become the other
 - Not a total re-identification
- We are transformed by the other

Worship of God vs Creation

- Finite versus infinite
- Corruption versus incorruption
- Fulfillment versus addiction

Religion and Spirituality



Basis of communion

- To create someone for Adam to unite to God had to take from Adam
- The union has to be between things which are of the same nature
- The medium must be of something you can connect to – something which you are

The medium?



Blood Blood and more Blood

- “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life” Leviticus 17:11
- Atonement (reconciliation) – union and communion with God

Worship isn't on our terms

- Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered
- **Unauthorized** fire before the LORD, **contrary to his command.**
- ² So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Leviticus 10:1-2

So how do we worship?



So how do we worship?

- “When He sat at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him.”
- Luke 24:30-31

Worship leads to life

- "Now this is **eternal life**: that they **know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
- John 17:3

If we don't satisfy our thirst?



Breaking bread consists of...

- “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer”
- Acts 2:42

Apostles Teaching



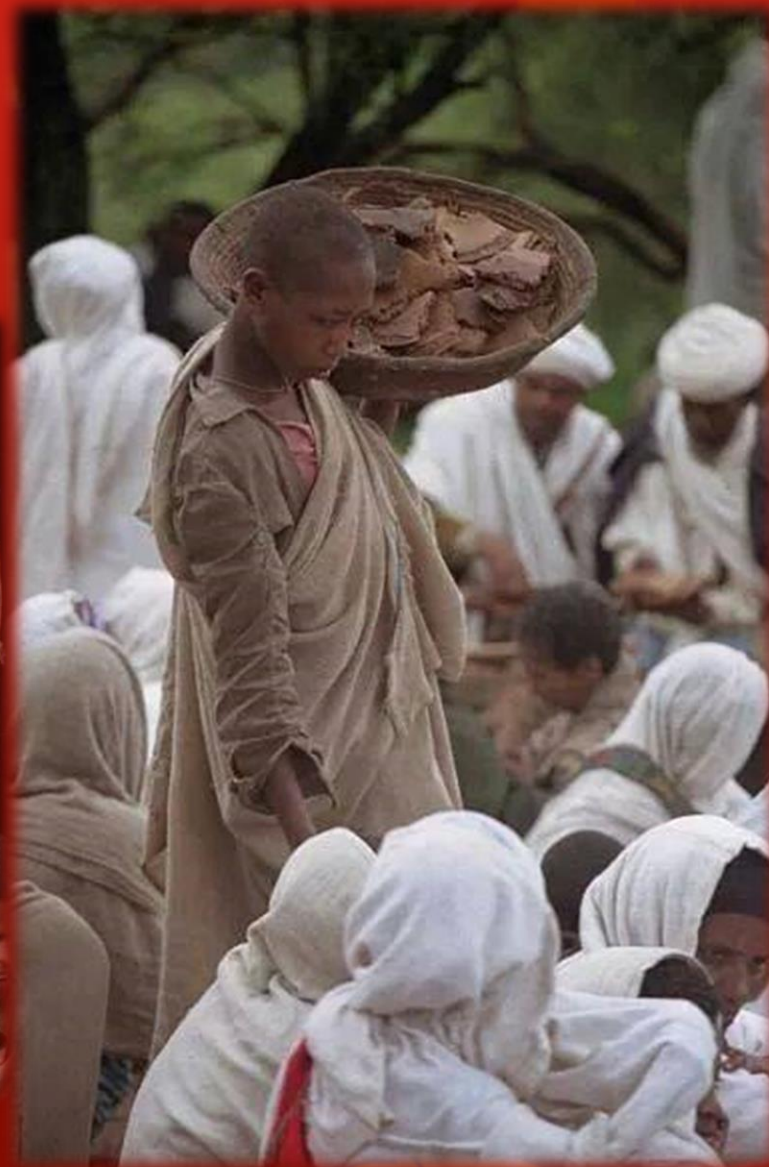
Prayer



Breaking Bread



Fellowship



Communion, Worship, Eucharist

- The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it not the **communion of the body of Christ?** ¹⁷ For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.
- Corinthians 10:16-17

Justin Martyr (150 AD) on worship

- And this food is called among us Εὐχαριστία [the Eucharist], of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Saviour, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, **is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh.**

Worship must be in Christ

- We aren't made to be isolated individuals but rather communing persons – with each other and with God
- We can't worship the uncreated unless it is through Christ because He is the only person to be composed of both created and uncreated natures – **He is both God and Man**
- **In His humanity we have access to divinity**