

# Communion - ReEntry Retreat

Passage: 1 John 1:1-4

Place: El Kanah, Re-entry Retreat

Date: 22 Sep 2019

## Intro:

- In front of us are **reminders** that Jesus our saviour was a man of sorrows, a man of **suffering**.
  - Not senseless suffering, but driven by **love** and his decision to save us.
- Let's start off by **singing** about our saviour who suffered.

## Song:

- Man of Sorrows

## Reading:

- 1 John 1:1-4

## Reflection:

- That's a really **special** thing that we just read:
  - that "we have **fellowship** together, and that: *"our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son."*
- **What** is fellowship?
  - The word means **sharing**: sharing **life**, sharing a **purpose**, even sharing **resources**.
  - So it's pretty amazing that we have **fellowship** with the Father and Son.
    - Between us and God the sharing **scales** are certainly not balanced **equally**: God shares with us far more than we could ever share with him.
    - All we can do is say "**thankyou!**"
- Of course fellowship with Jesus is not always **easy**: we have here symbols of his **suffering**, and sometimes fellowship with Jesus is the fellowship of suffering.
  - **You know** that.
  - But remember suffering with Jesus, also comes with the promise of **shared glory** through the power of his resurrection. (cf. Phil 3:10).

- The **Lord's Supper** is described as... well my bible says: a "*participation*" in the body of Christ, but it's that same word: **fellowship**, sharing.
  - Here is a **signpost**, a recognition of the fellowship with God that we have by faith through the death of Christ.
- And the fact that we are about to eat **together**, is a recognition that in Christ we have fellowship with each other.
  - We came together this weekend, mostly as **strangers**:
    - **from different places**,
    - with different **personalities**,
    - different **stages** of life,
    - different **church** backgrounds,
    - but I hope we've recognise that we share a common **identity**.
    - We have experienced **fellowship**.
    - It's a **special** thing.
  - Of course one of the **particular** things we have in common is a passion for **mission**.
    - And we're **grappling** in slightly different ways with the fact that today our part in Gods mission is **not what it was**.
    - But, you know what?
    - Right here is a reminder that there is **more to us** and our identity before God than what we do on his mission.
    - Because this supper is a reminder that one day the mission of reaching the lost will reach its **conclusion**,
      - Whereas fellowship with God and with each other will continue into **eternity**.
  - On that day this supper will become a **feast**; and our fellowship with Jesus will be **face to face**.

## Prayer:

- *Heavenly Father, what a privilege to have fellowship with you and with your Son.*
- *What grace that you would want anything to do with us!*
- *We don't deserve it!*
- *We confess the we are sinners:*
  - *We confess sinful actions,*
  - *Sinful thoughts,*

- *Sinful desires,*
- *We confess that there's likely sin that we aren't even aware of.*
- *Yet Lord, you are gracious!*
  - *Please assure us again of the complete cleansing that comes through Christ and his death on the cross for us.*
  - *Renew our joy and our thankfulness,*
- *We ask in Jesus name, Amen*

## **Supper:**

And so, it was our Lord Jesus, on the same night he was betrayed who **broke bread** and said: *"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

I'll pass it round, you can break off a piece, and then we'll all wait and **eat together**.

Jesus also said: *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

## **Song:**

- Friends can we **stand** and sing?
- In Christ Alone

## **Blessing:**

- Hey, can we finish by reminding **each other** of God continuing fellowship with us.
- Lets say this our **loud** together:
  - *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
  - (2 Corinthians 13:14)