

# COVENANT MEMORIAL

## A Fresh Perspective on Real Presence

### Essay No 6

## Communion as Covenant Memorial: A Pastoral Teaching Outline

Below is a **pastoral teaching outline** designed **for church use rather than the academy**. It is structured so it can be delivered as **one extended Communion teaching or a short series (3–4 weeks)**.

The language is accessible but the theology is *thick*, faithful to Scripture, and protective against common misunderstandings. It upholds the —*we remember / He remembers*—refrain and is placed within a **covenantal Real Presence** framework.

### Purpose of the Teaching

To help the church understand Communion as:

- a **covenant memorial**, not mere reflection
- a **real participation in Christ**, not repeated sacrifice
- a **church-forming act**, not a private devotional moment

The aim is not to explain *how* Christ is present, but to help the church receive **what Christ promises to give**.

### Session 1 — What is a Memorial in the Bible?

#### Key Text

Exodus 12:13–14

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you...  
This day shall be for you a memorial day.”

#### Teaching Emphasis

In the Bible, a memorial is **not about remembering in your head**.  
A memorial is a **sign God responds to**.

#### Teaching Points

### 1. Biblical remembering is active

- When *God remembers*, he acts.
- Memorials are not reminders *to God* but **covenantal signs God has bound himself to honour**.

### 2. The Passover was a once-for-all event

- Israel was rescued once.
- The event was never repeated.

### 3. The feast made the event present

- Each generation didn't *redo* the Exodus.
- They participated in its continuing power and promise.

### 4. Grace comes before law

- Passover comes before Sinai.
- Relationship comes before rules.
- God demanded **loyalty**, not legalism.

### Pastoral Application

- God does not ask us to recreate salvation.
- He invites us to **stand inside what he has already done**.

## Session 2 — Why Jesus Called Communion a Memorial

### Key Texts

Luke 22:19

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

### Teaching Emphasis

Jesus chose Passover on purpose.

“Remembrance” means **covenant participation**, not mental recall.

### Teaching Points

#### 1. Jesus did not say “repeat my sacrifice”

- The cross is once for all.
- Communion does not add to it.

#### 2. Jesus said “Do this”

- A concrete action
- A bodily participation
- A communal practice

#### 3. Remembrance is proclamation

- “You proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
- Communion preaches the gospel without words.

#### **4. The table belongs to the covenant**

- Bread and wine are **visible words**
- God has promised to meet his people there

#### **Pastoral Application**

- Communion is not about *working ourselves into reverence*.
- It is about **receiving what Christ has promised to give**.

### Session 3 — We Remember / He Remembers

#### **Key Texts**

Genesis 9:16

Acts 10:30–31

#### **Teaching Emphasis**

Communion works in **two directions**.

#### **Teaching Points**

##### **1. *We remember***

- We see the bread and wine.
- We receive them in faith.
- We remember Christ's body given and blood shed.
- We feed on Christ by trusting his promise.

This is not imagination—it is **faithful participation**.

##### **2. *He remembers***

- God “sees” the covenant sign.
- God acts to fulfil his promises.
- Christ is present as covenant Lord.

Just as:

- God saw the blood in Egypt,
- God saw the rainbow,
- God “remembered” Cornelius' prayers.

So Christ meets his people at his table.

#### **Pastoral Application**

- The power of Communion does not come from our intensity.
- It comes from **God's faithfulness to his promise**.

## Session 4 — Real Presence, Without Confusion

### Key Texts

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

1 Corinthians 11:27–29

### Teaching Emphasis

Christ is **really present**, but not in a crude or magical way.

### Teaching Points

#### 1. Christ is present as a person, not a substance

- Presence is relational, not mechanical.
- The risen Christ gives himself.

#### 2. The Spirit is the means of communion

- We are lifted into fellowship with Christ.
- Christ does not come down to be controlled.

#### 3. The meal makes us one body

- “Because there is one bread... we are one body.”
- Communion forms the church.

#### 4. Why “unworthy” participation matters

- Because something real is happening.
- The issue is not perfection, but **unrepentant hypocrisy**.
- Reconciliation matters.

### Pastoral Application

- Communion calls us to:
  - Repentance,
  - reconciliation,
  - renewed loyalty to Christ.
- Not to earn grace—but to receive it truthfully.

## A SIMPLE COMMUNION LITURGY

### Leader:

This table is not our achievement but Christ’s gift.

### People:

We remember what he has done.

### Leader:

As we receive the sign in faith—

### People:

He remembers his covenant.

### Leader:

Christ is present with his people.

**People:**

We receive him with thanksgiving.

**KEY TRUTHS TO REPEAT OFTEN**

- Communion is **not a repeated sacrifice**
- Communion is **not a mere symbol**
- Communion is **covenant participation**
- Communion forms us into **Christ's body**
- Communion joins **forgiveness, presence, and obedience**

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**FINAL PASTORAL SUMMARY**

Communion is not about *going back* to the cross.  
It is about **standing together in its finished work.**

We remember.

He remembers.

And Christ is faithful to meet his people at his table.