

In John's Gospel, Chapters 13–17 we read of Jesus' time with His disciples on the night before He died. Surely He will be dealing with priorities here because He alone knows what this night will bring. He promises them, and all who will believe on Him, peace, joy, a future home, a present presence of the Holy Spirit. He asks of them just three things: that they 'wash one another's feet' (a life of service)ⁱ; that they love one anotherⁱⁱ and that they obey His wordsⁱⁱⁱ. He then offers them the broken bread saying "this is My body ..." Whenever we partake of the communion bread we are identifying ourselves as 'the Body of Christ'. See John 6:56. He then took the cup saying, "this is the cup of the new covenant in my blood". He has made a (new)covenant with us in which He offers us great blessings and asks of us three things – to serve, to love and to obey. He signed His "last will and testament" in blood on a cross the next day; He invites us to signify our agreement to the covenant 'as oft as we drink this cup'. When we drink this cup unworthily we drink condemnation to ourselves^{iv}. This is because we are promising to do things while we are not practicing the same.

The New Covenant in My blood

*I take this bread of eucharist that speaks of body broken
Knowing that it is to me far more than just a token
For through your death upon that tree, my death I no more dread
I see the life you've given me within this piece of bread.*

*It tells me of a union – with others born anew
All members of your Body now – in oneness Lord with you
All fitly framed together - a witness of your love
Until as bride upon the throne we reign with you above*

*It tells me also that the work of Calvary's cross is done
And all its blessings now are mine purchased by the Son
By faith I can appropriate – forgiveness, life and health
By grace I'm saved - through faith - and that not of myself*

*"O Lord, please give to me the faith that makes these riches mine
That I might walk in holiness empowered by life divine
That I might know the healer's hand when weakness halts this frame
And walk in strength and wholeness bringing glory to your name"*

*The night we first received this bread a cup was also given,
A cup of wine that spoke of blood that flowed from body riven
It was the cup of covenant in things that you had taught
Of lifestyle you demand of us, and blessings you have bought*

*You spoke of peace beyond our ken and joy that we could know
The Spirit to abide in us and lead us here below
While you'd go to prepare for us a mansion in the air
And return one day to take us home forever with you there*

*In return three things you asked of us when these blessings we had heard
“You must serve one another, love one another and obey my word
Now take this cup and drink it up to show that you agree
To this covenant I offer you and to all who’ll follow me.”*

*“Lord, I take this cup with gratitude that I should be so blessed
To know these promises are for me since your name I first confessed
I agree to all the covenant, to the things that I must do
To serve your people, love them all and always obey you.”*

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ⁱ John 13:14

ⁱⁱ John 13:34

ⁱⁱⁱ John 14:15

^{iv} 1 Corinthians 11:27-30