

Renewing Your Vows

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Communion / Communion Table / 1 Corinthians 11:26

The purpose of communion is basically a renewing of your Baptismal vows.

Mike and Angie had been married for 50 years. Mike knew he wanted to do something very special for their upcoming anniversary. Like all marriages that had experienced some bumps along the way. Mike wanted to reaffirm Angie that he loved her now more than ever. To do this he planned a surprise ceremony to renew their vows. The kids, grand kids, and even two great grand-kids where there; all dressed in their best. The two great grand-daughters were the flower girls.

Angie woke up one day, Mike was already gone but laying on the bed beside her was a wedding dress (sized perfectly) and note. It read, “happy anniversary. Time to get ready for your big day. I’ll be waiting for you at the altar.” Shortly after the daughters and the professional hair dressers arrived.

As promised Mike was waiting at the altar to reaffirm his bride in his undying commitment.

- Today,
 - We have
 - same opportunity.

- Perhaps,
 - a significant amount

- of time has passed
 - since you said
 - your vows
 - to your beloved.
- Or perhaps,
 - you have had bump
 - you want to recommit.
- Today,
 - the purpose of communion
 - reaffirm your commitment
 - to the bridegroom
 - Jesus Christ.
- Communion it just that.
 - it is renewing your vows.
- In [Rev 2](#)

- Letter to 7 churches

- Ephesus:

Revelation 2:3-4 HCSB

You also possess endurance and have tolerated many things because of My name But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first.

- They are commended
 - for many things.
- Yet,
 - at end,
 - They are admonished
 - for leaving first love.
- That seems to happen
 - in this life.
- Perhaps because
 - the way we view love.
- People say,
 - I fell in love.

- How?
 - Walking along
 - oops.
 - tripped.
 - fell in love.
 - on accident.
- If that is how
 - you “fall in love.”
- Then,
 - certainly,
 - you can just
 - “fall out of love” too...
- This is what
 - Jesus says to those
 - who live after the
 - apostolic church.

- It started so well.
 - Everything was good.
- But then,
 - things just dried up.
- Now,
 - if that could happen,
 - so soon after Pentecost,
 - could it also happen
 - to us?
- I'm afraid to say,
 - but definitely yes.
- Let's take a look
 - at Jesus' prediction
 - of the last days.

Matthew 24:12 HCSB

Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold.

- The end-times is
 - characterized by:
 - › “Love of Many growing Growing Cold”
- But look at the text.
 - Why does love grow cold?
- Because of lawlessness.
- It grows cold
 - because people neglect
 - God’s holy law.
- God’s law,
 - a hedge of protection
 - against sin and selfishness
 - is torn down.

- People seek their
 - own selfish desires.
- And love for God
 - dies from the hearts.
- I wonder,
 - if perchance
 - it could have
 - happened to you too.
- Has your spiritual life
 - become a round of
 - ceremonies with
 - little meaning?
- Have you continued
 - to do the things
 - you are supposed to

- But you don't have
 - spiritual motivations.

- Have you been
 - coming to church
 - putting on the
 - “happy Sabbath smile”
 - but you are not
 - happy in Christ?

- Do you feel like a hypocrite?

- Have all your good standards
 - waned over the years?

- What can we do?
 - How can we restore
 - broken love for God.

- How can we get
 - our first love back?

Malachi 3:7 HCSB

“Since the days of your fathers, you have turned from My statutes; you have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Hosts.

But you ask: “How can we return?”

- Again,
 - connection between
 - losing love
 - and the commandments.
- The question is asked:
 - How can I return?
- Solution is given:
- What is solution?
 - › Return to me

- Sounds so simple...
 - because it is...
- Let's go back to Revelation

Revelation 2:4-5 HCSB

But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- Again,
 - the solution is given:
- First it says:
 - “Remember how far you have fallen”
- In other words,
 - evaluate your situation
 - realize where you are
 - realize how far you have fallen.
- You can't resolve

- the situation
 - if you don't know
 - how bad it is...

- Once you realize
 - our situation
 - the solution...

- “Repent, and do the works you did at first”

- They tell married couples
 - DATE YOUR MATE

- In other words,
 - do the stuff you did
 - while you were courting.

- It is the same,
 - in our relationship

- with Jesus.
- What was it like
 - when you really
 - in love with Jesus?
- Repeat your steps
 - do the same again.

John 15:1-5 HCSB

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.

- The secret
 - to a happy
 - fulfilling
 - spiritual life

- is abiding (remaining).
- To abide means
 - to live it that situation.
- To remain
 - means to stay in
 - that state of being.
- The spiritual life
 - is a life of
 - consistency.
- Something we don't
 - see a lot today.
- Commitment
- Loyalty
- Consistency.

- Not common today.

- Everything is so,
 - transient
 - temporary
 - fickle
 - indecisive
 - plastic
 - disposable
 - microwave generation

- God says,
 - relationships take
 - consistency
 - constancy
 - Loyalty

- How many have been

- married for
 - more than
 - 5 years
 - 10 years
 - 15
 - 20
 - 25
 - 30
 - 35
 - 40
 - 45
 - 50
 - 55
 - 60
- What does it take?
 - impart to us...

- Those who are married
 - realize Hollywood lies.
- There is no perfect
 - happily ever after
 - marriage is hard work.

Proverbs 5:18 ESV

Let your fountain be blessed,

and rejoice in the wife of your youth,

- Marriage to Christ
 - Christian journey
 - Hard work too.
- Why?
 - sin
 - selfishness.
- Jesus says,

- go back to
 - the first love.

- Go back to when
 - we were dating.

- Remember your
 - dating of your spouse?

- What was it like?
 - so excited to be
 - with that person.

- Remember dating Christ?
 - (if you don't
 - you are not Christian).

- What was it like?
 - What created that?

- Recreate that experience.
 - God back to first love.

- That is purpose
 - of Sabbath.
 - and Communion.

- Let's renew the vows.