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Remembering Those Present and Missing: A Meditation on the Lord's Supper

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AROUND THE LORD'S TABLE

Remembering Those Present and Missing: A Meditation on the Lord's Supper

When we commune we remember, whether present or missing, those of our own in Christ. Missing today is a young Christian man who while visiting with his widowed mother in a foreign country suddenly learned he had leukemia. Present today is a couple who have sought our prayers on the eve of their wedding. Their prayer is our prayer — “may our marriage be filled with the love of God in Christ.” Present today is a young mother who last Sunday confessed her need and asked for the prayers of her sisters and brothers over a personal struggle with materialism. As we remember her we ought to take stock of ourselves. Present today is a student who was admitted to medical school this past week. Missing today is a mother who week by week brings her children to services alone. Missing today is an elder struggling with cancer. Missing today is a widow who delights in a half hour visit and a tasty morsel prepared by loving hands. Missing today is a couple who lost their life savings in a failed S & L. Present today is a teen-ager who went to AA for the first time and decided to return. All of these, and those you alone know, we remember today in our fellowship meal.

Why do we remember them? You see, dear sisters and brothers, we can not remember Christ and forget his body. So, as we remember Christ at his meal we remember as well the struggles and victories of those present and missing. We remember as well our own struggles because the story of our identity is bound up together with the story of Christ. Today, as we remember his sacrifice and look forward to his return, we weep and rejoice in the sufferings and victories of our sisters and brothers. In so doing we remember Christ's death; we rejoice in his resurrection; we yearn for his return; and we acknowledge his eternal abiding presence. Today, the Lord's day, as we partake of one bread may we thereby renew our fellowship as one body and find ourselves once again one people in the Lord.

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