# Back To Basics

#### Volume 4

#### **JANUARY 2006**

Number 1

#### A Monthly Journal Dedicated To Teaching First Principles

#### HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH

Johnie Edwards

It all began with Forrest Christy! Forrest was a member of the Ellettsville, Indiana Church of Christ. He was a good Bible student and was always concerned about teaching others. Brother Christy passed away February 1995.

From time to time, some of his children attended with him. As I remember, his granddaughter, Melissa Chambers, now Melissa Baker, came to services with him as a small child. She later married Charles Baker, who obeyed the gospel. Through their influence, Forrest's son, Alan and his wife Tammy, who was a

Catholic, obeyed the gospel. Through their influence, Tammy's mother, Linda Marshall, also a Catholic, obeyed the gospel after a home Bible study. Then, Forrest's wife, Hazel, after forty years, was restored to faithfulness. A home Bible study was conducted with Forrest's daughter, Susie Chambers and her husband, Rob and they were recently baptized. Then, Alan and Tammy Christy's daughter, Brook, obeyed the gospel. Beverly

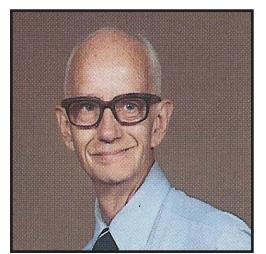
Edwards, another daughter of Forrest, was just baptized. Melissa's brother-in-law, Charles Baker's brother, Corbin, his wife, Christine, and their three children, Tiffani, Chastin, and Lauren were baptized after a home Bible study. The granddaughter-in-law to Forrest, Missy

> Chambers, and her daughter Kristen were just baptized, after a home Bible study. Missy is married to Forrest's grandson and Susie Chambers' son, Greg.

> When I think of the great influence of one man, I am reminded of the words spoken concerning Abel, "...he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4). We just need

3:6). Where this ends, only God knows, as there are a number of grand and great grandchildren attending the Ellettsville Church of

to keep "planting and watering" that "God may give the increase" (1 Cor. Christ, who are still young.



Often, brother Christy went with me as home studies were conducted. May we keep his legacy alive as we continue with home Bible studies.



## THE SOWER'S SEED

Basic Sermon Starters

"HE THAT GOETH FORTH AND WEEPETH, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, SHALL DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, BRINGING HIS SHEAVES WITH HIM."

#### SOME THINGS TO BE FOUND IN CHRISTIANS

#### Introduction

- 1. There are some things found in Christ.
- 2. As we get into Christ, there are some things that should be found in us.

#### Discussion

#### I. CHRIST

- A. If we are in Christ, then Christ should be in us.
- B. John 15:4-5
- C. Galatians 2:20
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:15; 13:5

#### II. THE MIND OF CHRIST

- A. Philippians 2:5-8
- B. Discuss the kind of mind Christ had.
- C. Is this mind in you?

#### III. THE LOVE OF GOD

- A. John 17:26
- B. 1 John 2:15
- C. 1 John 3:16-17
- D. 1 John 4:7-12

#### IV. THE THINGS OF 2 PETER 1:5-7

- A. Discuss each of these.
- B. Read 2 Peter 1:8-11.

#### V. A READINESS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

- A. Romans 1:15
- B. Notice the readiness of Paul.
- C. This readiness is observed in early disciples as seen in Acts 8:4.

#### VI. Joy

- A. John 15:11
- B. Philippians is the epistle of joy.
- C. Note things that should fill us with joy.

#### VII. HOPE

- A. 1 Peter 3:15
- B. Hope saves (Rom. 8:24) and anchors us (Heb. 6:18-19).

#### Conclusion

- 1. Can these things be found in you?
- 2. Sometimes there are things found in us that ought not be found in Christians (Eph. 4:25-31; Col. 3:8-9; 1 Pet. 2:1).



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P.O. Box 251 Ellettsville, IN 47429 1-800-889-0338

BcktoBscs@edwardspublishers.com

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#### U.S. CARRIES OUT 1,000TH EXECUTION

John Isaac Edwards

On Friday, December 2, 2005, Kenneth Boyd was put to death by lethal injection in North Carolina, becoming the 1,000th person to be executed in the United States since the Supreme Court lifted the 10-year capital punishment moratorium in 1976. In the last 28 years, the U.S. has executed, on average, one person every 10 days. This landmark case brings attention to the death penalty. Let's look at it from the Biblical point of view.

TESTAMENT. God was the first to pronounce death as the penalty for violation of law, in Genesis 2:16-17. The Lord instituted capital punishment for man by man, in Genesis 9:6, when He said, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Under the law of Moses, the death penalty was carried out at sundry times and in divers manners. This was not "cruel and unusual punishment," but "every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward" (Heb. 2:2). Capital punishment instilled respect for the law and served as a deterrent to wickedness (Dt. 13:10-11).

2) Capital Punishment In The New Testament. In the New Testament, capital punishment is Jesus-endorsed, apostle-taught, and Holy Spirit-approved. The Lord told Peter, "...all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Mt. 26:52). Paul sanctioned the death penalty as he declared, "For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die..." (Acts 25:11). In the Old Testament, the government of God was a theocracy, but in the New Testament there is a

separation of church and state, with civil government being "the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:4). The *sword* is a symbol of capital punishment and "the powers that be...beareth not the sword in vain." Civil government is the arm of God in avenging the evildoer (1 Pet. 2:13-14).

Public support for the death penalty may have dropped and the courts may be less inclined to use it, but the Bible still affirms it and we need to uphold it.

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## INSTRUCTION TO YOUNG MOTHERS Melba Edwards

When we beget children, they do not come with an instruction guide book, or a sheet that tells us how to put them together. They are full of life and real. We may ask ourselves, what do I do? Let's look at some things the Bible tells us.

- 1) CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD. The Psalmist wrote, "Behold, children are an heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Ps. 127:3). When we realize from where our children come, it helps us to step up to our responsibility as mothers. God gave them to us pure and without sin. We must do our best to bring them up in such a way that when they die, they will be prepared to meet God. We need to ask ourselves, as those in time past asked concerning John the Baptist in Luke 1:66, "What kind of child will this be?" As a mother, I need to realize I have an important role in helping to "train up a child in the way he should go" so that "when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).
- 2) Children Must Be Loved. Paul gave instructions for the older women to admonish the young women to love their children (Ti. 2:4). The best Scripture concerning love is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 which reads, "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..."

- OBEDIENCE. Children must be taught to "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). Obedience must be taught very early. They must be taught to respect parents' authority. It will help them to respect the authority of others throughout their lives. Most importantly, they must be taught to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk. 12:30).
- 4) CHILDREN MUST BE DISCIPLINED. Proverbs 29:15 reads, "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother." Discipline needs to be done with love, fairness, and consistency. While we are worshiping God, children must be taught to sit and be still. Sometimes they need a firm, but gentle hand letting them know it is no fun if mom has to get up.
- 5) CHILDREN MUST BE TAUGHT HOW TO PRAY. Prayer is sometimes lacking in many families. Mothers must be prayerful when it comes to bringing up our children and, at the same time, we must teach our children to pray. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing." This should begin very early.

Mothers have tremendous influence. Remember Lois and Eunice? (2 Tim. 1:5).

#### THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Donnie V. Rader

All three of the synoptic gospels tell the story of the rich young ruler (Mt. 19:16-22; Mk. 10:17-22; Lk. 18:18-23). This was a man that seemed to have it all going for him. Youth, wealth and power - what more could he want? There are several things we learn from this story.

1) GOOD PEOPLE CAN AND WILL BE Lost. It is quite hard for some to conceive that good people will lose their souls. Consider the many principles that made this man good. a) He had an interest in spiritual things as evidenced by his asking, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" (Mt. 19:6). b) He wanted to go to heaven. He didn't just ask about a religion, but had his mind focused on eternal life. c) He had a concern for his soul. He didn't ask about his power, or his money. He asked about his soul's salvation. d) He had kept many of the commandments. In fact, he had been doing so for some time. e) He was morally good. He didn't steal, lie, or engage in premarital or extramarital sex. f) He was trained well. If he had been keeping the commands since his youth, his parents had to teach him something about the law, respect for it, and serving God. What a fine young man! Yet, he was lost and would not go to heaven in his present condition. The fact that he was sorrowful as he left this discussion with Jesus about going to heaven says he knew he was not going. Furthermore, Jesus followed the discussion with this statement: "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God (Mt. 19:23-24).

- 2) **Some Are Not Willing To Change.** In order to have eternal life, this young man was going to have to make a change. He had been selfish with his wealth. He had not been thinking of others. He had too much love for money. All of that he had to change. That, he was not willing to do. The gospel demands radical changes.
- 3) **SOME ARE NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP A HINDRANCE TO THEIR SALVATION.** This young man's love of money stood between him and going to heaven. Which meant more to him? Certainly, eternal life should have. However, the money must have meant more for he went away very sorrowful.
- 4) Choosing To Do Nothing Is A Choice For Disobedience. This is no indication that the young man made a conscious choice to commit sin. That is, he didn't say anything like, "I'd rather commit sin and go to hell for it as to give up my money." What he did was to do nothing about the command that Jesus gave. That, in principle, was a decision for continuing in sin and heading for torment.
- 5) God Requires More Than Some General Service. There are those who seem to feel that all is well as long as they are "generally" doing what is right. The man in our text seemed to generally follow the law given by Moses. The "one thing" he lacked was enough to render him unfit for heaven.

We learn a lot from the rich young ruler.

1533 Highway 41-A North Shelbyville, TN 37160

#### THE NEED FOR UNITY AMONG BRETHREN

Connie W. Adams

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for ever more" (Ps. 133:1-3).

The relationship brethren have with each other should eliminate strife and division. "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee...for we be brethren" (Gen. 13:8). They were kinsmen after the flesh. We are brethren spiritually in Christ. We have the same Lord, we have been washed in the same blood, we are members one of another and we share the same hope.

- 1) Unity Is Needed Among Brethren Because The Lord Required It. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you..." (1 Cor. 1:10).
- 2) Unity Is Needed Among Brethren To Help Answer The Lord's Prayer For Unity. Jesus prayed for believers, "That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us" (Jn. 17:21). We must not stand in the way of the Lord's prayer being fulfilled.
- 3) Unity Is Needed Among Brethren To Further The Work Of Evangelism. Jesus, in His prayer for unity, pointed out the effect

when He said, "that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (Jn. 17:21). Feuding, fussing and fighting among brethren will not convince the world to believe and follow Christ.

- 4) Unity Is Needed Among Brethren To Carry Out The Divine Plan For Unity. It is possible because the Lord gave a platform upon which all can stand together. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6). Unity is not only pleasant, required, prayed for, and necessary to save the lost, but it is POSSIBLE.
- 5) How Is Unity Possible? We can have unity when we "walk by the same rule" and therefore "mind the same thing" (Phil. 3:16). There is one standard of authority to which all of us must submit. When we all do that, then we walk together. When some are unwilling to walk by that rule, then division comes, unless we all become unwilling to walk by it and therefore all stand together in error and thus divided from God. We cannot afford peace at any price. There is "one faith" and no part of that is negotiable. None of it can be compromised.

We can have unity among brethren when we all love the truth (and walk in it), when we love each other, when we learn to be forgiving and forbearing and put forth effort to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

6) WITHOUT UNITY AMONG BRETHREN, WE SUCCUMB TO THE WORKS OF THE FLESH. In his list of the works of the flesh, Paul listed,

"strife, seditions, heresies" (Gal. 5:20). Here is division in every form. "Strife" begins in the heart as we become aggitated with each other. "Seditions" arise as we begin to stand apart from those who are not aggitated over the same things we are. We "eye" each other, form little pockets of unrest and begin to distance ourselves from the rest. "Heresies" are the chosen opinions, or

tenets which become solidified into articles of faith which now distinguish a sect, pulled away from the rest. Paul said that "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21). Unity is urgent!

P.O. Box 91346 Louisville, KY 40291

#### CHRIST ON DAVID'S THRONE

Johnie Paul Edwards

Such passages as 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Psalm 89:3-4 promised that the Messiah would sit upon David's throne. Premillennialists apply this prophecy to the millennial kingdom and deny that Jesus is now sitting on David's throne.

You may be asking, "What difference does it make?" If we can prove, from the Scriptures, that Christ is now sitting on David's throne, the doctrine of premillennialism is wrong for it denies such. If Christ is now sitting on David's throne, the premillennialists interpretation of Bible prophecy is wrong, and the second coming of Jesus will not result in the establishment of a millennial kingdom on earth.

1) What Is David's Throne? David's throne was not a literal, physical chair on which David sat. David's throne is not reserved somewhere for Christ. David's throne is a position of authority that Christ has in the church. The word "throne" means sovereign power and dignity. Jesus is the Head, King and Ruler over the kingdom, the church (Mt. 28:18-19; Eph. 1:20-23). David's throne was God's throne, because God gave it to him (1 Ki. 1:46-48; 2:12; 1 Chr. 29:32). Thus, the throne, although it was on earth, was Jehovah's throne and rule over His people. Christ, sitting on David's throne, is sitting on the throne of the Father ruling over His people (Col. 1:13; Rev. 3:21).

2) Jesus Is Now Seated On David's Throne. Jehovah made an oath to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 that He would sit one upon His throne. Christ was the one God raised up to sit on David's throne (Acts 2:25-36). Jesus was resurrected to sit in a position of authority in the kingdom, the church.

Christ was to reign on David's throne while David was dead. Jehovah said, "When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom" (2 Sam. 7:12). Jesus was resurrected to sit on David's throne while David was dead and in his tomb. Peter said, "Brethren, I may say unto you freely of the patriarch David, that he both died, and was buried, and his tomb is with us unto this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God hath sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would sit one upon his throne; he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of Christ..." (Acts 2:29-30). The premillennialists have Christ seated on David's throne after the resurrection of the righteous. After the resurrection will be too late for Christ to reign. He must be reigning now, while David is dead in the tomb. "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet..." (1 Cor. 15:25-26).

#### Being A CHRISTIAN

T. Sean Sullivan

Today there are many who claim to be Christians. The problem in their claim is that they have so many different ideas that are foreign to the Scriptures. A true Christian is concerned with what God wants and has said in His word. The word of God is the one true source from which we must seek to answer, "Are we Christians? Are others Christians?"

1) What Does Christian Mean? Christian is a very specific term given to describe a very specific group of individuals. Christian means a disciple, a follower of Christ (Acts 11:26). A true Christian follows only Christ and is not willing to follow any other (Acts 4:12).

Being a Christian means you are a member of the church of Christ. This helps us to understand the specific nature of the term "Christian" when we know that it describes members of a single church - Christ's (Mt. 16:18).

2) How Do I BECOME A CHRISTIAN? The question of how to become a Christian has been the most twisted in the doctrines of men. Men have declared that salvation is found through infant baptism, sprinkling, pouring, manifestations of the Holy Spirit, prayer, or just being good. All these have been proclaimed as able to make one a Christian.

What does God's word say? Peter taught repentance and baptism for the remission of sins in Acts 2:37-38. Jesus Himself clearly stated, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). In the Scriptures, we see thousands of cases where individuals became Christians through hearing, believing, repenting, confessing,

and being baptized. Not one of them prayed themselves into being a Christian, had water sprinkled or poured over them, or was declared exempt of the plan based on their own goodness. The conclusion must be drawn that God desires that we hear and believe and willingly submit to Him by being baptized for the remission of our sins.

3) How Do I STAY A CHRISTIAN? The Scriptures are clear that one can turn from the faith and lose his salvation. Hebrews 10:35-39 is just one example of the fact that it is possible for one to fall away.

We need to know how we can maintain being a Christian. God has given us the tools that we must use to be prepared and able to stand (Eph. 6:10-18). As we stand and endure, we know that the reward is worth it all (1 Pet. 4:16).

A Christian is one who has been saved by the blood of Christ. Having his sins washed away through immersion in water, a Christian is a dedicated follower of the doctrine of Christ. Does the word "Christian" truthfully describe you?

306B W. Main St. Newbern, TN 38059



#### CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION #2

Allan E. Martin

Creation is a supernatural act by a divine being. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Creation is a matter of faith - we believe God spoke and it happened. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:3).

Faith would indicate that God created the plants and animals in groups or kinds, as Genesis 1 affirms (reference Leviticus 11 for examples of kinds). Faith would also indicate that these kinds were created functionally complete (all the parts there from day one), but with the capacity for variation, within limits. For instance, in Genesis 30:41-42, Jacob, through selective breading, was able to develop a strain of strong, spotted cattle from an original stock of cattle. It is very important to note that Jacob started out with cattle and he wound up with cattle - the cattle did not evolve into whales (as the October 1976 edition of *National Geographic* suggests).

Thus, the Bible teaches that God created kinds of plants and animals, with the capacity for variation within limits. This is confirmed by what we see in nature. For instance, we see variety in the dog kind, the finch kind, and the cattle kind. But after all is said and done, dogs are still dogs, finches are still finches, and cattle are still cattle. And the Bible teaches that God created man in His own image, or after His own likeness (Gen. 1:26-27). He created man fully formed and functional, from the dust of the

ground, with a soul; man did not evolve. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

Faith would also indicate that God created all in a short period of time - six solar days. Reference Genesis 1 where God talks about what He created on each day. In Genesis 1:5, we find, "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." He speaks of those days in language defining solar days. Each day had a number (Ps. 90:12); each day had an evening and a morning (Gen. 1:5). And, in Exodus 20:11, He compares the creation days to the Israelite's work days, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." God could not have been plainer that creation took place in six solar days.

Men sometimes admit that the evidence shows the formation of earth's creatures must have taken place in a very short period of time. In December 1995, *Time Magazine* had a cover story entitled "Evolution's Big Bang" wherein it was stated that, "New discoveries show that life as we know it began in an amazing biological frenzy that changed the planet almost overnight." They incorrectly attribute this quick biological explosion to the theory of evolution - but actually it is totally consistent with Exodus 20:11 which says that "in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is."



Stay On Track. Get Back To Basics.

## RICE ACTIVITY PODE

Paul Adams

**Memory Verse:** "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer" (Ps. 19:14).

Psalm 19

Read Psalm 19:7-11 and use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle.

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Across  5. The commandment of the Lord is  7. God's word is sweeter than  8. The law of the Lord is								<ul> <li>3. In keeping the word of the Lord there is great</li> <li>4. The statutes of the Lord are</li> <li>5. The testimony of the Lord is</li> <li>9. The fear of the Lord is</li> </ul>							

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

Q & A

Question:

"Our preacher teaches that if you are absent from Sunday morning, you cannot partake of the Lord's supper...?"

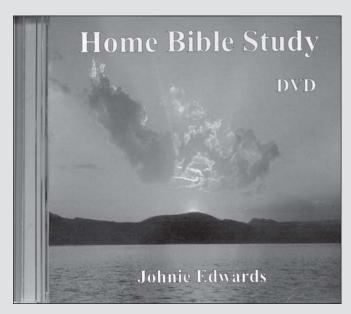
Answer: The question in its entirety is as follows: "Our preacher teaches that if you are absent from Sunday morning worship, you cannot partake of the Lord's supper on Sunday evening. He says there is no authority for a second serving. Some are teaching that if one takes the Lord's supper on Sunday evening, everybody has to take it again. What do you think?"

It is not a matter of what we think, but what does the Bible teach? It needs to be said up front: we must not abuse the taking of the Lord's supper. I must not deliberately forsake "assembling" with the church (Heb. 10:25), but sometimes one is sick or for some real reason cannot meet on Sunday morning. We are commanded by apostolic example to "break bread on the first day of the week" (Acts 20:7). No church has the right to deny one doing what the Lord said do on the Lord's day! The time of the observance is not stated - only the first day of the week. You need to ask your preacher: "What am I doing that is sinful when I partake of the communion on Sunday evening? What Scripture am I violating?" It's not a "second serving" for the one who was not present Sunday morning - it is his first! Somebody has mis-labeled this. And it would be sinful not to do what the Lord said to do on the Lord's day.

To answer your second question: it needs to be stated that those who bind "everybody taking the Lord's supper twice" are binding where God has not bound! When I partake of the communion on Sunday morning, I have done what the Lord says do: break bread on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). If not, why not? I hear some saying, "We all have to partake of the Lord's supper at the same time and must tarry one for another." Folks who say this do not all partake at the same time. The one being served at the front of the building is not partaking at the same time the one at the back is. To take at the same time, each would have to take the bread and fruit of the vine, hold it for someone to count: 1, 2, 3 - eat! That "tarry one for another" (1 Cor. 11:33), has to be understood in light of the context. Why did Paul say this? Because they were just running in and eating their own as they made a feast out of it. Paul is trying to stop this practice. If "tarry one for another" means we have to wait till all are present, we might never eat it. See how ridiculous this gets? A lot of people do not seem to realize that there is some individuality involved in the communion. Paul penned, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). Hope this helps you some.

Have A Bible Question? Send to: Back To Basics, P.O. Box 251, Ellettsville, IN 47429

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select the lesson to view, and watch with your prospect as they fill out the companion *Home Bible Study* booklet. The DVD can also be used as a training video in showing members of the church how to teach a home Bible study. This is an excellent personal work tool for church members in converting the lost. It would be good for each member to have this available to use in their personal evangelism. Order a copy for yourself today. It would also be good for churches to purchase some copies to make available to their members where they can check out of a library. Since the cost of producing these has come down, we are happy to be able to make these available now for only \$24.95. The DVD is guaranteed to last throughout your personal work. If for some reason your DVD becomes defective, simply return it to us and we will replace it absolutely free. Order by phone at 1-800-889-0338.

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