

Closed Communion

Scriptures and arguments supporting the Lutheran practice of closed communion, emphasizing the need for theological unity, proper preparation, and pastoral oversight to ensure worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, safeguarding communicants from judgment and upholding the doctrine of the Real Presence.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10: Commands unity in mind and judgment, emphasizing that communion reflects agreement in doctrine (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2: Pastors are stewards of God's mysteries, responsible for faithful administration of the Sacrament, ensuring proper oversight (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).
- 1 Corinthians 10:14-22: The Lord's Supper is a communion of Christ's body and blood, a public confession of faith, incompatible with idolatry or false doctrine; partaking expresses unity with the altar's teaching (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Universal Atonement).
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-29: Warns against unworthy reception, which brings judgment for not discerning Christ's body and blood; requires self-examination and belief in the Real Presence (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution).
- 1 Corinthians 11:26: Communicants proclaim Christ's death, making the Supper a public confession of shared faith (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Matthew 7:15: Warns against false prophets, indicating the need to avoid communion with those holding false teachings (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- Matthew 16:6, 12: Jesus warns against the leaven of false teaching, supporting exclusion of those not aligned with true doctrine (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- Philippians 2:1-4: Calls for unity in spirit and mind, reinforcing that communion expresses doctrinal agreement (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Philippians 3:2: Warns against false teachers, supporting the need to restrict communion to those sharing true doctrine (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- Colossians 2:8: Cautions against deceptive philosophies, underscoring the need for doctrinal purity in communion (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- 1 Peter 3:8: Encourages unity of mind, aligning with the communal confession of faith in the Supper (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- 2 Peter 3:17: Warns against being led astray by error, supporting restrictions on communion to protect against false doctrine (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- John 17:11, 17: Jesus prays for unity and sanctification through truth, indicating communion as an expression of shared faith (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Jude 3: Urges contending for the faith, supporting the exclusion of those not aligned with apostolic teaching from communion (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- 1 Timothy 4:6, 16: Pastors must teach sound doctrine and persevere in it, ensuring communion is administered faithfully (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- 2 Timothy 1:13: Hold fast to sound doctrine, reinforcing the need for theological unity in communion (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- Galatians 1:6-9: Curses those preaching a different gospel, justifying exclusion from communion to

maintain doctrinal purity (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).

- Romans 16:17-18: Avoid those causing divisions contrary to doctrine, supporting closed communion to preserve unity (cross-referenced with Sola Scriptura).
- Acts 2:42: Early church devoted to apostles' teaching and breaking of bread, indicating communion requires shared doctrine (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Hebrews 13:10: Christians have an altar from which those not aligned with Christ's sacrifice cannot eat, supporting restricted access to communion (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Matthew 26:26-28: Jesus institutes the Supper, declaring the bread and wine as His body and blood for forgiveness, requiring belief in the Real Presence (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Universal Atonement).
- Mark 14:22-24: Reaffirms the Supper as Christ's body and blood, necessitating proper understanding for worthy reception (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Universal Atonement).
- Luke 22:19-20: Jesus' words of institution emphasize the Real Presence, underscoring the need for proper preparation (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper, Universal Atonement).
- Ephesians 4:1-6: Calls for one faith, one Lord, one baptism, reflecting the unity expressed in communion (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Mark 11:26: Warns that unforgiveness prevents forgiveness, indicating repentance as a prerequisite for worthy communion (cross-referenced with Confession and Absolution).
- 1 Samuel 16:7: God sees the heart, but humans rely on public confession (church membership) to determine communion eligibility (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- 2 Timothy 2:19: God knows His own, but visible church membership reflects doctrinal confession for communion (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).
- Ephesians 4:15: Speak truth in love, guiding the practice of closed communion to protect souls while showing care (cross-referenced with The Lord's Supper).