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## Upcoming Events

All Night Prayer on June 6th Friday @ Metro (10 PM - 6 AM)

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## Weekly Schedule

Tues, May 27th (Carollton) Kuiachen & Neena's residence (7:00 PM)

Friday, May 30th (Rowlett) Sam & Daisy's residence (7:00 PM)

Sat, May 31st (Metro) Fasting Prayer (3 - 8 PM)

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### Prayer for the Nations: India\*

"An anti-conversion law passed in 2003 in the Indian state of Gujarat came into effect on April 1, increasing Christians' concerns that it will open the door to false accusations by Hindu militants. The law is supposed to curb religious conversions made by "force," "fraud" or "allurement." However, Christians and human rights groups believe that the law actually obstructs all conversions, as Hindu nationalists invoke it to harass Christian workers with arrests and imprisonments, which are often accompanied with violence against the accused. The law dictates that any person who intends to convert must notify the government or will be declared an offender and prosecuted under criminal laws. It also stipulates that those convicted of "forcible conversion" could be jailed for up to three years.

Anti-conversion laws are now enforced in five states -- Gujarat, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh -- and have been passed but are yet to be implemented in Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Ask God to strengthen Christian workers in Gujarat as they face more opposition in serving the Lord. Pray that the faithfulness of Indian Christians will be a light that draws many to the love of Christ (Matthew 5:14-16)."

\*[http://news.christiansunite.com/Religion\\_News/religion07153.shtml](http://news.christiansunite.com/Religion_News/religion07153.shtml)

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### Word of Wisdom

"The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people." - G.K. Chesterton

"Without exception, the people who have the greatest number of faults are themselves the most merciless in their criticism of others. They spend their lives looking for something lowly rather than something lofty." - DeWitt Talmadge

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of God



*Celebrating the Presence of God  
Demonstrating the Love of God  
Communicating the Word of God  
Educating the People of God*

May 25, 2008

In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever.  
(Psalm 44:8)

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# Welcome

*For as **often** as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.* 1 Cor 11:26

The church, and let me take it a step further, the Church of God in particular has three ordinances that we participate in; the Lord's Supper (other terminologies used: the Lord's Table & Holy Communion), Baptism, and Feet Washing. The Lord's Supper is the ordinance that we are exposed to most **often**, in fact, at our church we are exposed to this ordinance every month, therefore, it is important to understand the significance of this important part of our worship service.

One of the dangers that the church faces with regards to certain facets of worship is that elements of the service can become ritualistic and traditional, thereby the true meaning and significance of that part of worship gets lost in time. The Lord's Supper is a good example, for some people as time passes by it becomes trivial and a routine practice.

A good example that can be given is regarding marriage. The Catholic church has seven sacraments (similar to ordinances); baptism, Eucharist (Lord's supper), marriage, etc. Marriage is an important life event for all who have partaken of this experience. However, in the western culture, marriage has lost much of its significance that divorce has become a normal part of society. At one point in the American culture, divorce was not a norm and was looked down upon. The value of marriage has become so low that the states considered to be part of the bible beltway in the US has the highest divorce rates. These states are Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, and Oklahoma. You would think that these states with so many protestant conservative churches and plenty of baptism and charismatic influence would not have divorce as a major issue, but in fact these states are 50 percent above the national average. On the other hand, Catholics have lower divorce rates than Protestants because marriage is a sacrament to them and the catholic church associates divorce as shameful, thereby discouraging divorce. The significance that Catholics have placed on the "sacrament" of marriage has yielded better results than Protestants.

So what does marriage have to do with the Lord's Supper? What I wanted to point out with this example is that once we start losing that wonder of the Lord's Table, and the meaning of it, we will start to disassociate ourselves from the cross and the great sacrifice of our Savior. Just like married couples disassociate themselves from each other once they do not see the importance of marriage, it is easy for us to fall into the same trap.

The purpose of having the Lord's Supper is to bring our focus back onto Jesus. Everything that is part of our worship service is as a result of what was done on the cross. We can approach God with songs of praise and bring our petitions through prayer **because of the cross**. The testimonies of praise are as result of God working on our behalf **because of the cross**. The exhortations and sermons that we hear for our admonition, encouragement, and spiritual growth would be meaningless **without the cross**. The fellowship we have with each other is **because the cross** has united us for one purpose. The Lord's Table is a reminder that everything that takes place in our worship is as a result of God sending His Son, broken and bleeding for us, and reconciling us to God. As we partake of the Holy Table, let us not lose the wonder of the cross and the person of Jesus, and let's participate with gratitude and awe, realizing how great is His love for us.

Yours in the Lord,

Abie

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# Sermon Notes