

"BROKEN POTTERY"

I Corinthians 10:14-17

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

In these 4 verses, Paul is reasoning with the Corinthians why they should only worship God and not be swayed to worship idols as well. Partaking in the cup and bread cements them together in worshipping God. Verse 17 states: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." In particular, this speaks to me of the unity of all of us through Christ in relationship with God.

So during Lent, traditionally a time of penance and prayer, we reflect on that relationship. We say, "Sorry" for what we've done that has broken that relationship. We ask for forgiveness and make amends with our prayers. Likewise, with communion, we have an occasion of grace where our broken relationships can be repaired. This point was visually brought home to me one Sunday several years ago.

When the chalice and paten are not being used to serve communion, they are displayed on a tall stand near the side of the sanctuary. This particular Sunday, the stand had been moved to a more visible place in front of the altar rail. Not accustomed to it being there, someone accidentally bumped into it. The chalice and paten were knocked to the floor. The pottery paten cracked and broke into 2 pieces.

In that moment I saw, "Christ's body broken for you." With some super glue, the 2 pieces were put back together. The paten isn't perfect. The crack that runs across the diameter of the paten is still visible. But the paten is still functional. It serves as a visual reminder that our broken relationship with God can be mended through Christ's brokenness. Our flaws may still show but we can be United as the body of Christ.

Prayer: Glorious Creator, you are the potter of our lives. Jesus, you are the super glue that puts us together again when our actions cause brokenness. Holy Spirit, we ask for your guidance so that we may be useful vessels as the body of Christ. Amen.

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