

- **Release Date:** September 6, 2018
- **ISBN:** 9781632694768
- **Retail:** \$13.99
- **Pages:** 192
- **Category 1:** Biblical Studies / History & Culture
- **Category 2:** Sacraments
- **BISAC:** REL006630 RELIGION / Biblical Studies / History & Culture
- **Format:** paperback

IS THERE MORE?

RESURRECTING COMMUNION

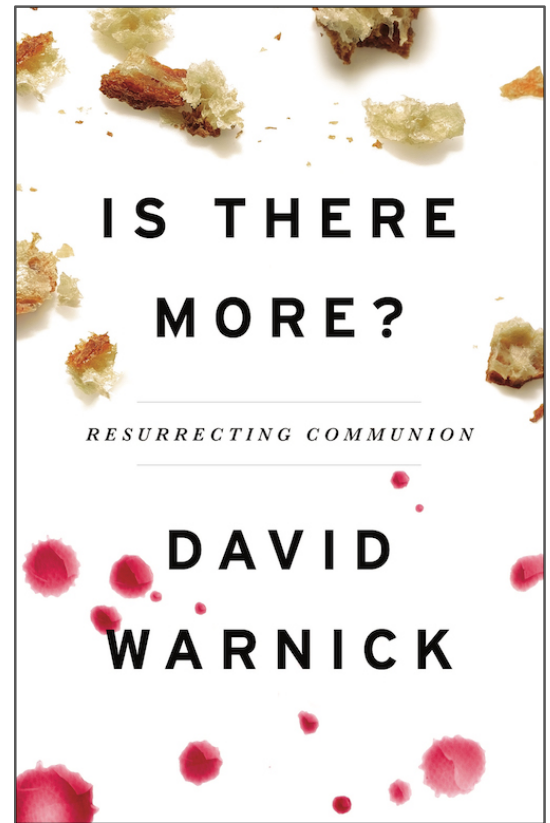
DAVID WARNICK

Ever felt like there could be more to communion? That we might be missing something in the Lord's Supper? The Bible speaks of the first believers breaking bread with "gladness," and we often speak of "celebrating communion." Yet does this reflect our actual experience?

In this groundbreaking book, longtime pastor and scholar David Warnick presents a fresh look at what's become routine. He observes, "As I saw what the Bible actually says happens in communion, and what we do, I came to the conviction that we all need to look at these same questions and change our approach."

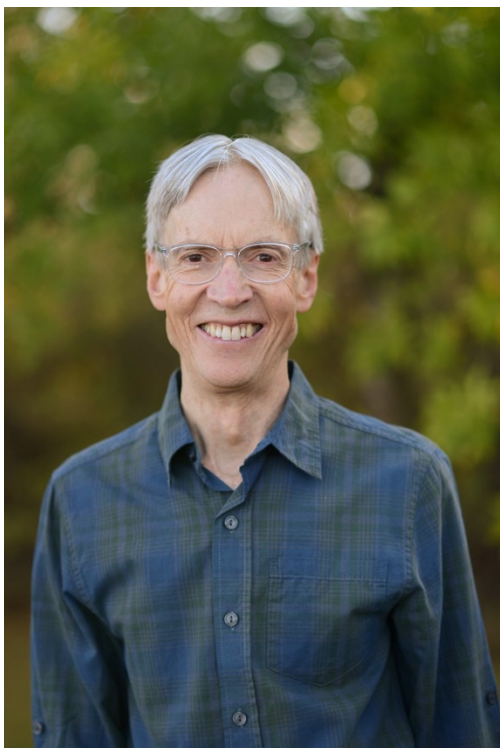
Is There More? takes the reader on a discovery to remove superficiality from the way we engage in the Lord's Supper and recover the elements that make it a vital faith encounter. Warnick's book examines various aspects of communion, how we practice it, and how we *could* practice it in order to make it a truly meaningful aspect of worship. This engaging and convicting message challenges readers to expand their experience and expectancy for communion in a way that can change not just individuals, but the way they do church.

Is there more to communion than what we currently observe? Indeed, there is, and this fresh approach to the Lord's Supper can ignite hearts with passion and transform the act of communion. David Warnick's biblically sound exposition takes us to a deeper level of understanding and fellowship with our Lord Jesus.



For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

Deep River
B O O K S



About the Author

David Warnick

David Warnick has written a speech for a president (Ronald Reagan), preached for vendors at a NASCAR race, and been a regular guest at a Benedictine monastery. He grew up in Idaho, where he met his future wife, Nikki, in high school. David and Nikki married after he attended seminary in Scotland on a scholarship. From there, they lived in Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, DC; Pasadena, California; and Kansas City before returning home to Idaho. For a time, he was an assistant to Ken Canfield, Director of the National Center for Fathering (which included involvement in the Promise Keepers movement). David and Nikki's very full life has included raising five children and sharing their home with a rocket scientist, recovering addicts, and people from six nations—including Syrian refugees. Until recently, he served as the Missions Pastor for New Life Church in northern Idaho.

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

What Others Are Saying About ***Is There More?***

This book speaks to the heart of an important topic that deserves more attention.

—**NEWT GINGRICH, 50th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives**

David Warnick, my friend of thirty years, a man of deep devotion and love for God; his communion in the Lord's Supper will cause you to draw near to the Lord's heart and be swept into the beauty of His righteousness. Read it and be blessed!

—**LOU ENGLE, Founder of The Call prayer movement; Author of *Digging the Wells of Revival* and *The Call of the Elijah Revolution***

David Warnick does a masterful job of unfolding aspects of the Lord's purpose and heart when He instructed us to remember Him in this act. The stories and examples in this book will grow your passion for Jesus.

—**MIKE BICKLE, Director of the International House of Prayer, Kansas City**

Even when we were young and active in politics together, David and Nikki Warnick's friends admired their special lives of true faith. Now David has written a book on communion—clear, sharp, and full of original insights for believers of all backgrounds.

—**KARL ROVE, Senior White House Advisor to George W. Bush**

Throughout history the Church has lost her way. The vibrancy of our communities and the poignancy of our creeds have, at times, been emptied by our lack of expectancy, obedience, and wonder at the majesty of God. In mercy, God raises up voices who help us rediscover the glories hidden by our own wandering. David Warnick is such a voice. My hope is that *Is There More?* can help the Church find her way back to a joyful, transactional, and life-giving experience of the Lord's Supper.

—**ADAM NARCISO, Pioneer and Visionary, Catalyst Ministries, Nashville**

David Warnick's passion for Jesus is something which always inspires me.

—**MARK ELSDON-DEW, Communications Director, Holy Trinity Brompton, London; Author, *The God Who Changes Lives***

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com



David Warnick's new book is a biblically sound exposition of the Lord's Supper and His command to "do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:24–25). I believe that if you open your heart and mind to what David presents in the pages ahead, you will receive an impartation of knowledge that will take you to another level of understanding, intimacy, and fellowship with our Lord Jesus and one another. I highly recommend this book!

—**DR. CHÉ AHN, Founding Pastor, HRock Church, Pasadena; President, Harvest International Ministry; Author of *Say Goodbye to Powerless Christianity***

This will strengthen your relationship with Jesus. Communion has been lost in the religious acts of the church. This book brings it all to the surface, makes us think of why we take communion, and the importance of it. This author provides clarity in why we do what we do, and the real importance of what we do and why we do it.

—**PASTOR TIM D. REMINGTON, Founder, Good Samaritan Rehabilitation, Idaho; Featured on *The 700 Club* after miraculously surviving six close-range .45 caliber pistol shots**

This examination of the Lord's Supper is just what we need to help us to be obedient to this basic command of Christ. This book **succinctly and insightfully** addresses the common issues that keep us from basic obedience to Jesus. It will be a book I highly recommend to those in our training who have concerns about celebrating the Lord's Supper. It's immensely practical and theologically informed—a great balance for those of us who love Jesus but don't want to read abstract theological tomes either! I would recommend this book to all.

—**DR. PAM ARLUND, International Leadership Team, All Nations; Author, *Pocket Guide to Church Planting***

My dear friend David Warnick challenges and helps us all to reflect on the meaning and practice of the Lord's Supper, whatever our Christian tradition. His Edinburgh University teacher and mine, who sent him on his quest to understand the Supper those decades ago, would have called it a converting ordinance, so named in the Scottish communion tradition. David opens up this rich evangelistic understanding of the Supper and its converting power for many outside our Scottish tradition in fresh and enlivening ways.

—**WILLIAM STORRAR, Minister of the Church of Scotland and former Professor of Practical Theology at the University of Edinburgh**

In the early church, communion was an integral expression of community life. Initially the disciples were defensive of their newfound faith and practice. Many paid with their life for following Jesus. So it was vital for them to keep the centrality of their community life. In Acts Chapter 2 it is evident that this practice was integral to the practice of the Christian faith.

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com



Through the years, the practice has taken different modes, but essentially the centrality of this teaching remains. David is a meticulous writer and has produced this in all simplicity. I commend this to wider reading.

—**J. VARADARAJ, Senior Minister, India**

This book will draw you closer to our Creator in ways you've never imagined. Do yourself a favor and glean from David's revelations on the subject on communion.

—**JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY, Praiseworthy Ministry; Author, *Keys to Understanding***

David Warnick has written, with sage wisdom and fresh insights, about the Christian tradition's oldest practice: The Lord's Supper. **Regardless of your background or experience in taking The Lord's Supper, you will be encouraged to celebrate the benefits of participating in this sacred practice more often** after reading his book. ... It is my hope that this book and your commitment to re-engage the essence of the Christian faith in your home through this practice would be the basis for the spiritual renewal in our households, both natural and spiritual.

—**KEN CANFIELD, Founder, National Center for Fathering; Author, *Seven Secrets of Effective Fathering* and *The Heart of a Father***

This is a comprehensive study of the Lord's Supper with a fresh approach. Rather than a seminary textbook approach, the author explores this subject with a community context in mind, as in New Testament times. He examines twenty-four issues of the Lord's Supper from all angles—biblical, historical, and experiential. Well done!

—**JOHN WESLEY "WES" ADAMS, PhD, Coauthor and Editor of *The Fire Bible* (formerly *The Full Life Study Bible*)**

I am grateful to David Warnick for his excellent work on the Lord's Supper. For many years I have felt that there is so much more to the practice of what we refer to as "communion" than we often experience. David encourages us to think afresh and come to Lord's Table with a sense of expectancy.

—**REV. DR. ROY PATTON, former Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com



Suggested Interview Questions

For David Warnick, author of

Is There More?

Resurrecting Communion

Q: Are you saying the way we do communion is wrong?

A: When you use the word “wrong,” it sets up a conflict where people want to take sides. I think such a conflict could actually obscure what I’m asking for. My desire is for all of us to look at our own hearts – but also the way we as groups do communion – and see how we can individually, and as groups, take steps to get closer to what we see in the New Testament. I’m convinced there’s something more for all of us in looking in-depth at how we approach communion.

Q: What’s different between the way we do communion and what you see happening in the New Testament?

A: Most notably: the relational context, the emotional tone, and the spiritual focus. To paint a word picture, most current communion services are like a husband giving his wife a quick peck on the cheek when he’s being dropped off for work: His mind is on other things, and it’s a formality with little meaning.

If you look at the passages in Acts and 1 Corinthians and Jude, we see there’s no distinction between what we’d know as a church covered-dish meal and the ceremony of communion. The remembrance of the Lord was part of a party! The emotional tone is joy; Acts 2 says they broke bread with gladness and sincerity of heart. And, tied to that, the focus wasn’t inward on our individual spiritual condition, but upward on the goodness of God.

Q: Are you saying Protestants should be more like Roman Catholics and focus on the act of communion as much as Roman Catholics do the mass?

A: I believe we need to take communion seriously, and not just as leave it as “the hole in the service!” (That’s the term I understand at least one Protestant pastor has used in talking about communion!) I believe there’s a third way – an

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

alternative between how the Catholics have taken it seriously – but made it a ceremony without connecting us one with another in joy; and Protestants who’ve often tried to explain it in natural terms or dumbed communion down and made it an “add on.” If we look at the questions and examples I present in the book, I believe we can move towards unity in the body of Christ. To me, communion is like a pair of glasses for our faith. It both affects how we see our own faith – and it affects how those outside see us, through this action.

Q: Can you expand on that? What would be the basis for unity in celebrating communion?

A: For those who honor tradition and for those who honor the New Testament, we can arrive at the same place if we accept the pattern in the New Testament, which after all is our oldest tradition!

- For instance, the early church celebrated communion as part of a meal. That’s a different context than almost any practiced today – what would happen if we all went back to that?
- There was no requirement in the early church for a leader with ordained authority to lead communion. Once believers accept that any one of us can take initiative and invite other believers to participate in the body and blood of the Lord, we can see practical unity emerge in the way the church approaches communion.
- Once we accept that when Jesus gave a command to “remember Him” and that any person can respond to His command, then we’ll open up communion to all those present.
- Once we accept that His words are true – “This is my body,” regardless of how we mentally explain or understand that, then we can move towards practical unity in our faith and practice. I’d long to see a copy of my book get to the Pope or the Patriarchs of the Eastern Orthodox churches. Who knows? The word of the Lord won’t return without bearing fruit, it won’t return void.

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

Q: So you don't think you need to be a pastor to lead communion?

A: Do you need to be a pastor to obey Jesus when He says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?" Do you need to be a pastor to obey His words to pray for your enemies? Do you need to be a pastor to forgive? Of course not – Jesus told us to "Do this in remembrance of me." Was there any qualification or additional instructions? Nope! If I love Jesus, I'm eager to obey His commands, His instructions – and that includes remembering Him when I'm gathered with others through the bread and the cup! We don't need to wait for others to worship, or pray, or sing songs to our Lord – and in the same way we don't need to wait for someone else to say: "Let's take some time and remember Jesus in the bread and the cup."

Q: Can you describe your ideal communion ceremony?

A: Hmm... the very word "ideal" could take us down the wrong road. There are certainly formats which I think bring us closer to the New Testament experience than other formats, and I describe some in the book – but I don't think settling on any one format is wise. While routines are reassuring and bring some security, they can also become rote and meaningless. We need to put creative thinking into our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. We need to put effort and time into how we structure obedience to God in communion. And we need to be spontaneous as well, and just bring out the cup and the bread with a gathering in our home on the spur of the moment – and see how our Lord blesses eager obedience in whatever format.

Q: So, you're saying anyone can participate in communion? That we don't need to examine ourselves and make sure we're worthy?

A: I attended seminary in the New College building in Edinburgh, Scotland. There's a story told about one of the past professors there that has helped me a good deal. Professor Duncan was in a communion service, and the cup and the bread came to a young lady sitting in front of him. She shook her head and indicated she didn't want to receive it. The professor reached his long arm over and tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Take it lassie, it's for sinners!" It really has to be that

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

simple! Certainly we need to deal with sin in our lives – but all the time, not just in the context of communion.

The usual translations of 1 Corinthians 11 use the word “examine” – and I go into that in the book. Paul’s instruction can be translated better, as it is in the Revised English version (of 1881): “But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” We show we’re believers by taking the bread and the cup – we show we know we need Jesus! Paul was addressing the rich people in Corinth who were eating their meal before the slaves and the needy could get off work and get to the meeting – and weren’t showing the elementary decency to “wait for one another.” That’s the sum total of his solution to their disrespect – that’s how we receive the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner – we wait for one another.

It's interesting to me that, in comparison, Jesus’ more explicit words in the Sermon on the Mount – that when we’re going to give a financial gift and we remember someone has something against us that we should wait to give the gift and go straightaway to work that conflict out – are rarely referenced before churches receive their tithes and offerings!

Q: One intriguing point you make is that communion should include children. Could you explain your thinking there?

A: Whether the Last Supper was a Passover meal, or a preliminary meal (and I address that question in the book) it was clearly in the context of Passover. The Passover ceremony to this day is all about children – the youngest child in the household who can read starts off the ceremony. The children search for the leaven to get it out of the house before the ceremony proceeds. Jesus wants children to come to Him, to be connected to Him – as the King James translation puts his words not long before the Cross: “Suffer the little children to come to me...” In my book, I point out that children have a better grasp of the mysteries of the kingdom of God than adults do – that’s why Jesus commends childlike faith. He said we need to approach God as children to get into His kingdom. Once we see communion occurring in the context of a meal together, we realize both how easy it is to include children and how awkward it is to exclude them.

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com

Q: Is communion just a mental exercise?

A: I thought so for a long time. Why did I think so? Because Jesus' words "Do this in remembrance of me" could be seen as strictly a mental exercise. We think of "memory" as being strictly mental. Well, I tell the story in the book about having a disturbing dream – and waking up and "remembering" where I was, and the flood of peace that came over me as I "remembered." Remembrance of Jesus is the same dynamic – as we take time to realize that He's right beside us, that He's made us whole, that He's as close as our breath – it's something more than a mental exercise. That's why Paul goes on in 1 Corinthians 10 to describe it in terms of a "participation" in the body of Christ, a "participation" in the blood of Christ, His sacrifice. Participation or "communion" (the word the King James uses there) is more than a mental exercise!

Q: Is communion a source of supernatural power?

A: This question is actually more critical than many common questions. Does the act of communion do something here on earth that's tangible? I know there are various thoughts about what happens to the bread and the cup. But what about what happens to us? Isn't that more important? I believe communion automatically has an effect. The act imparts heart knowledge that goes beyond propositions we can recite about our Lord. That's why I'm convinced it can be evangelistic – communion can move someone from knowing about our Lord to knowing Him. There's an implication in Paul's words about people being sick because they didn't show proper respect to others during communion that it has healing power. The book includes some stories about this. I point out in the book how the meal that was the predecessor to communion, the first Passover meal, was accompanied by tremendous physical healing – Psalms 105 says when the Hebrew people left Egypt there was "not one feeble" among them. Obviously in any population that size there would normally be sick people. They had just been given extra bad treatment in their slave labor before the climax of the Exodus. And yet – Psalm 105 is the word of God, and indicates the power that accompanies any expression of the presence of God!

For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com