THE QUESTION

Did the early Christians practice closed communion?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 37 early Christian passages and 208 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-christians-practice-closed-communion

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. The early writers say only baptized believers who held the true faith and lived as Christ taught could receive the Eucharist. Catechumens waited until baptism, members confessed sins and made peace first, grave sinners could be kept back, and communion was bound to the bishop and the one Church.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Only the baptized may receive

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache, one of the oldest church manuals, gives the prayers for the Eucharist and then limits it to those baptized in the Lord's name. It applies Jesus' warning not to give what is holy to dogs.

1 “But let no one eat or drink of your Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, except those who have been baptized into the name of the Lord. For about this also the Lord has said, "Do not give what is holy to dogs."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Faith, baptism and a changed life required

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin explains to outsiders that three things were needed to share the Eucharist: believing the church's teaching is true, being washed for the forgiveness of sins, and living as Christ taught.

2 “This food is called among us [the Eucharist], and only those who believe that our teachings are true, have been washed with the washing for the remission of sins and renewal, and live as Christ instructed, are allowed to partake.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Learners waited until they were initiated

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions have the church pray that catechumens, those still being taught, would be baptized and made worthy of the holy mysteries. Only the baptized may eat, but someone who takes part in ignorance is to be taught and brought in, not driven off.

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3 “Let us still earnestly offer our prayers for them, that by their admission they may obtain the forgiveness of their transgressions, and so may be considered worthy of the holy mysteries and of constant communion with the saints.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 26, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 “Let no one eat of these things unless he is initiated, but only those who have been baptized into the death of the Lord.”

later in the same passage

“But if anyone partakes through ignorance, instruct him quickly and initiate him, so that he may not go out and despise you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 30, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Confession and peace come before the table

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache tells believers to confess their sins before breaking bread on the Lord's Day, and to stay away until they are reconciled with a fellow believer. An early liturgy sums it up: holy things belong to the holy.

5 “But let no one who is in conflict with a fellow believer come together with you until they are reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 14 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “It is fitting that the holy things should belong fully to the holy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Liturgy of Adaeus and Maris* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 8

Grave sin could keep members back

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian prays for daily bread so that believers are not kept from communion because of some grave sin. He treats being kept back as a real danger, since it separates a person from Christ's body.

7 “And we ask that this bread should be given to us daily, so that we who are in Christ, and who receive the Eucharist daily as the food of salvation, may not, because of the interruption caused by some grave sin, be prevented—being kept back and not communicating—from sharing in the heavenly bread, and so be separated from Christ’s body, as He Himself foretells and warns: “I am the bread of life which came down from heaven. If any man eats of my bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 18, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 6 OF 8

Rushing people back was called false peace

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian protests that some gave communion too quickly to those who had denied the faith in persecution, without true repentance. He also objects when people whose sins were never washed away in the Church's baptism are allowed to touch the Lord's body and blood.

8 “Contrary to the vigor of the Gospel, contrary to the law of the Lord and God, by the rashness of some, communion is relaxed for heedless persons. This is a vain and false peace, dangerous to those who grant it, and likely to avail nothing to those who receive it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 22, page 8 **Read it in the library ›**

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9 “But what a crime belongs, on the one hand, to those who receive them, and on the other hand, to those who are received, when their uncleanness has not been washed away by the laver of the Church, nor their sins removed, and yet communion is rashly taken, and they touch the body and blood of the Lord, although it is written, "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord!"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 21, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Each person must also test himself

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria mentions that in some places each person took his own portion of the Eucharist. He says a person's conscience, resting on a right life and sound teaching, is the best guide, and he quotes Paul's call to examine oneself.

10 “In the same way, in the distribution of the Eucharist, some according to custom direct that each person among the people should take his own part individually. A person's own conscience is the best guide for choosing rightly or for avoiding something.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 1.1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Communion belonged to the bishop's one Church

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius counts a Eucharist as proper when the bishop, or someone he appoints, leads it. He warns that those who leave the bishop and join in communion with the accursed will be cut off with them.

11 “Let a proper Eucharist be considered as such when it is administered either by the bishop, or by someone he has entrusted it to.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 5, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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12 “For as many as are of Christ are also with the bishop; but as many as fall away from him and embrace communion with the accursed, these shall be cut off along with them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say whether baptized visitors from other churches could receive communion.
- They do not set out how long a member kept back for sin had to wait before returning.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 37 early Christian passages and 208 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–37, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 38–171, in Bible order), then 74 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *37 passages from 14 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 9 **Quote 1, page 2** “about the Thanksgiving, or Eucharist, give thanks in this way. First, about the cup: "We thank You, our Father, for the holy vine of David Your Servant, which You made… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “every Lord's day gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed your transgressions, that your sacrifice may be pure… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 3–6*

3 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 8) “loaf also is broken to all [the communicants], and one cup is distributed among them all: there is but one altar for the whole Church, and one bishop, with the… [continues online] **read ›**

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4 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* **Quote 12, page 6** "as many as fall away from him and embrace communion with the accursed, these shall be cut off along with them… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "is not lawful without the bishop either to baptize, or to offer, or to present sacrifice, or to celebrate a love-feast… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (on point 8) "abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not acknowledge the Eucharist to be the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, who suffered for our sins, and whom… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 7*

7 *First Apology* **Quote 2, page 2** "food is called among us [the Eucharist], and only those who believe that our teachings are true, have been washed with the washing for the remission of sins and renewal… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 8*

8 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (on point 8) On the contrary, the presbyters who came before you and did not observe this custom sent the Eucharist to those in other dioceses who did. When the blessed Polycarp visited… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 9*

9 *Stromata* 1.1 **Quote 10, page 5** he is in the right condition to hear and to read. In the same way, in the distribution of the Eucharist, some according to custom direct that each person among… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 10–13*

10 *De Corona* 3 (1885 English; on point 8) "take also, in congregations before daybreak, and from the hand of none but the presidents, the sacrament of the Eucharist, which the Lord both commanded to be eaten at meal… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *On Modesty* 15 (on point 5) him back? These words of his must serve both as a binding rule for what went before and as a judgment beforehand on what follows in the Epistle. For when… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *On Modesty* 18 (on point 5) "if admitted, detrudes him from communion, without hope of any condition or time… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *On Baptism* 15 (1885 English; on point 8) "however, have no fellowship in our discipline, whom the mere fact of their excommunication testifies to be outsiders… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 14–15*

14 *Liturgy of Adaeus and Maris* 1 (on point 2) "receive the body of the Son, cries the Church, and drink His chalice with faith in the house of His kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Liturgy of Adaeus and Maris* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "is becoming that the holy things should be to the holy in perfection… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 16*

16 *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (on point 7) so also what enters into the mouth does not sanctify the man, even though what is called the bread of the Lord may be thought by the simpler disciples to… [continues online] **read ›**

Asterius Urbanus, *c. 232–250 AD · source 17*

17 *Extant Writings of Asterius Urbanus* 1 (on point 8) them false and rejected them as heretical, they were therefore expelled from the Church and barred from communion… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 18–23*

18 *Treatises* **Quote 7, page 4** "forever, it is clear that those who partake of His body and receive the Eucharist by the right of communion are living. So, on the other hand, we must fear… [continues online] **read ›**

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19 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 6) “the meantime, if any unrestrained and impetuous person, whether of our presbyters or deacons or of strangers, should dare, before our decree, to communicate with the lapsed, let him be… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Epistles* (on point 6) said, "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of demons," 1… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** “what a crime is theirs on the one hand who receive, or on the other, theirs who are received, that their foulness not being washed away by the layer of… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Treatises* **Quote 8, page 4** “cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 6) “is communion to be granted by us to the dying, but to the living, that we may not leave those whom we stir up and exhort to the battle unarmed… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 24–32*

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) be separated. But if anyone has a demon, let him indeed be taught piety, but not received into communion before he is cleansed. Yet if death is near, let him… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) when they go through such things, do they refuse to pray, or to touch a Bible, or to receive the Eucharist? If they admit that they do, then it is… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 3, page 3** catechumens, pray, and let all the faithful pray for them in their minds, saying: Lord, have mercy on them. And let the deacon lead the prayers for them, saying: Let… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) “let the bishop speak thus to the people: Holy things for holy persons… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) “he that receives from such a one who is worthy of blame, or from one excommunicated, and prays for him, while he purposes to go on in a wicked course… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) the deacon shall immediately say, “Let none of the catechumens, none of the hearers, none of the unbelievers, and none of the heterodox stay here. You who have prayed the… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “if any one that is not initiated conceal himself, and partake of the same, he eats eternal damnation… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) “receive not from those that are excommunicated, until they are thought worthy to become the members of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 8) “not one of the godly pray with an heretic, no, not in the house… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 33–34*

33 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “it is not meet to give the holy things to dogs… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 3) “These mysteries, which the Church now declares to you who have been moved from the group of catechumens, it is not her custom to declare to the Gentiles. For we… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 35–36*

35 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English; on point 6) “communion with the faithful is sufficient for them, which is granted for two reasons, with diligent caution, and just judgment… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Canonical Epistle* (1885 English; on point 6) “communion is sufficient for them, which is granted them with diligence and care for two causes… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 37*

37 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 from their heresy and fleeing as suppliants to the Church of God, repent with their whole hearts. Only now do they perceive the condemnation of their error, and they beg… [continues online] **read ›**

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THE BIBLE *134 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

38 **Genesis 43:32** They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who dined with him by themselves; for the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, since that is an abomination to the Egyptians. **read ›**

39 **Exodus 12:43** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the law of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it. **read ›**

40 **Exodus 12:45** A temporary resident or a hired worker shall not eat of it. **read ›**

41 **Exodus 16:16** “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is the word that the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one for those who belong to him, an omer for every head, according to the number of persons among you; each of you gather it together with those who share your tent.’” **read ›**

42 **Exodus 24:11** And of the chosen ones of Israel not even one was missing; and they appeared in the place of God, and they ate and drank. **read ›**

43 **Exodus 29:33** They shall eat those things by which they were sanctified, to consecrate their hands and to sanctify them; but no stranger shall eat of them, for they are holy. **read ›**

44 **Exodus 29:37** For seven days you shall cleanse the altar and sanctify it, and the altar shall be most holy. Whoever touches the altar shall be sanctified. **read ›**

45 **Exodus 30:29** You shall sanctify them, and they shall be most holy; whoever touches them shall be sanctified. **read ›**

46 **Leviticus 6:19** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, (Septuagint Leviticus 6:12 (Leviticus 6:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

47 **Leviticus 6:20** “This is the gift of Aaron and his sons, which they shall offer to the Lord on the day when you anoint him: the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sacrifice continually, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening. (Septuagint Leviticus 6:13 (Leviticus 6:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

48 **Leviticus 6:22** The anointed priest who is in his place from among his sons shall make it. It is a perpetual law; it shall be wholly offered up. (Septuagint Leviticus 6:15 (Leviticus 6:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

49 **Leviticus 10:10** to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 10:18** For its blood was not brought into the holy place. You were to eat it inside, in the presence, in a holy place, as the Lord commanded me.” **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 11:8** You shall not eat of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. **read ›**

52 **Leviticus 17:9** and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of witness to offer it to the Lord, that man shall be utterly destroyed from his people. **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 19:7** If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is unfit for sacrifice; it shall not be accepted. **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 19:8** Whoever eats it shall bear sin, because he has profaned the holy things of the Lord; and the persons who eat it shall be utterly destroyed from their people. **read ›**

55 **Leviticus 20:7** You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 20:26** You shall be holy to me, for I, the Lord your God, am holy, who separated you from all the nations to be mine. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 21:6** They shall be holy to their God and shall not profane the name of their God, for they offer the sacrifices of the Lord, the gifts of their God; and they shall be holy. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 21:8** You shall sanctify him; he offers the gifts of the Lord your God. He shall be holy, for I, the Lord who sanctifies them, am holy. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 21:18** No man who has a blemish shall come near: a man who is blind, or lame, or with a mutilated nose, or with ears cut off, **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 21:22** He may eat the gifts of God, the most holy things, and of the holy things; **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

62 **Leviticus 22:10** No stranger shall eat holy things; a temporary resident with a priest, or a hired servant, shall not eat holy things. **read ›**

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63 **Leviticus 22:11** But if a priest acquires a person bought with money, he shall eat of his bread; and his servants born in his house, they also shall eat of his bread. **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 22:14** And a man who eats holy things unknowingly shall add its fifth part to it and give the holy thing to the priest. **read ›**

65 **Numbers 15:19** then it shall be, when you eat of the bread of the land, you shall set apart a portion set apart, a special portion for the Lord, the firstfruits of your dough. **read ›**

66 **Numbers 15:31** because he has despised the word of the Lord and broken his commandments; that person shall be destroyed with destruction; his sin is upon him.'" **read ›**

67 **Numbers 18:9** And let this be yours from the consecrated holy things of the burnt offerings: from all their gifts, and from all their sacrifices, and from every guilt offering of theirs, and from all their sin offerings, whatever they render to me from all the holy things; it shall be yours and your sons'. **read ›**

68 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

69 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

70 **Deuteronomy 12:26** But your holy things, if you have any, and your vows, you shall take and come to the place that the Lord your God chooses for his name to be called upon there. **read ›**

71 **Deuteronomy 23:2** One born of a prostitute shall not enter the assembly of the Lord. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:3 (Deuteronomy 23:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Deuteronomy 23:3** An Ammonite or a Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation he shall not enter the assembly of the Lord, even forever, (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:4 (Deuteronomy 23:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

73 **Deuteronomy 23:4** because they did not meet you with bread and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired Balaam the son of Beor from Mesopotamia against you to curse you. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:5 (Deuteronomy 23:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Deuteronomy 24:4** the former husband who sent her away may not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the Lord your God; and you shall not defile the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance. **read ›**

75 **Deuteronomy 25:2** then if the ungodly man deserves lashes, you shall lay him down before the judges, and they shall whip him before them according to his ungodliness. **read ›**

76 **2 Samuel 22:26** With the holy you will be holy, and with the perfect man you will be perfect; **read ›**

77 **2 Kings 4:44** So they ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord. **read ›**

78 **2 Kings 23:9** However, the priests of the high places did not go up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, except that they ate unleavened bread among their brothers. **read ›**

79 **2 Chronicles 30:17** For a great part of the assembly had not purified themselves, and the Levites were to slaughter the Passover for every one who could not be purified for the Lord. **read ›**

80 **Ezra 9:4** Then everyone who followed the word of the God of Israel gathered to me because of the faithlessness of the exiles; and I sat still in silence until the evening sacrifice. **read ›**

81 **Ecclesiastes 3:12** I knew that there is no good in them except to be glad and to do good in one's life. **read ›**

82 **Ecclesiastes 6:5** Moreover it has not seen the sun and has not known rest; to this one rather than that one. **read ›**

83 **Song of Solomon 3:7** Behold, Solomon's couch; sixty mighty men are all around it, of the mighty men of Israel. **read ›**

84 **Isaiah 5:3** And now, you who dwell in Jerusalem, and you, man of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. **read ›**

85 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

86 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

87 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

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88 **Jeremiah 17:26** And they will come from the cities of Judah and from around Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the land of the plain, and from the hill country, and from the south, bringing whole burnt offerings and sacrifices and incense and grain offerings and frankincense, bringing praise to the house of the Lord. **read ›**

89 **Jeremiah 49:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **Ezekiel 31:3** Behold, Asshur was a cypress in Lebanon, beautiful in its shoots and lofty in stature; its top was among the clouds. **read ›**

91 **Daniel 4:17** The matter is by the decree of the ir, and the request is the word of the holy ones, so that the living may know that the Most High is Lord of the kingdom of men, and he will give it to whomever he pleases, and he will set up over it the despised of men.' **read ›**

92 **Daniel 9:5** we have done wrong, we have acted lawlessly, and we have departed and turned aside from your commandments and from your judgments, **read ›**

93 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

94 **Amos 6:10** and the rest shall be left behind; and their relatives shall take them, and shall press hard to carry their bones out of the house; and one shall say to those in charge of the house, "Is there still anyone with you?" And he shall say, "No one else." And he shall say, "Be silent, so as not to name the name of the Lord." **read ›**

95 **Habakkuk 1:9** Destruction will come upon the ungodly, resisting with their faces set against him, and he will gather captives like sand. **read ›**

96 **Habakkuk 2:16** You also, drink your fill of dishonor instead of glory; be shaken, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord has come round upon you, and dishonor has gathered upon your glory. **read ›**

97 **Zechariah 14:20** In that day what is on the horse's bridle shall be holy to the Lord Almighty; and the caldrons in the house of the Lord shall be like bowls before the altar. **read ›**

98 **1 Esdras 5:39** When the record of the descent of these men was sought in the register and was not found, they were excluded from serving as priests. **read ›**

99 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

100 **1 Esdras 8:58** And I said to them, "You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the gold and the silver are a vow to the Lord, the Lord of our fathers. **read ›**

101 **1 Esdras 9:4** and that whoever did not come within two or three days, according to the judgment of the ruling elders, should have his cattle given over to the temple, and he himself should be cut off from the multitude of the captivity. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:10** For those who keep holy things in holiness will be made holy, and those who have been taught them will find a defense. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:18** of a trespass before a judge and a ruler, of lawlessness before a congregation and a people, of unrighteousness before a partner and a friend, and of theft before the place where you live; **read ›**

106 **1 Maccabees 1:45** and to forbid whole burnt offerings and sacrifice and drink offering in the sanctuary, and to profane Sabbaths and feasts, **read ›**

107 **1 Maccabees 1:46** and to defile the sanctuary and the holy ones; **read ›**

108 **2 Maccabees 3:12** and that it was utterly impossible that wrong should be done to those who had trusted in the holiness of the place and in the majesty and inviolability of the temple honored throughout the whole world. **read ›**

109 **2 Maccabees 6:5** The altar was filled with unlawful things that the laws forbade. **read ›**

110 **2 Maccabees 7:35** For you have not yet escaped the judgment of the Almighty God, who watches over all. **read ›**

111 **2 Maccabees 7:36** For our brothers, after enduring a brief pain, have now fallen under God's covenant of everlasting life; but you, by the judgment of God, will receive just penalties for your arrogance. **read ›**

112 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

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113 **2 Maccabees 13:8** For since he had committed many sins against the altar, whose fire and ashes were holy, in ashes he met his death. **read ›**

114 **2 Maccabees 14:3** Now a certain Alcimus, who had formerly been high priest but had willfully defiled himself in the times of mixing with the Gentiles, realizing that there was no salvation for him in any way and no longer any access to the holy altar, **read ›**

115 **2 Maccabees 14:36** So now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep undefiled forever this house that has so recently been purified." **read ›**

116 **3 Maccabees 2:28** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **3 Maccabees 2:33** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **3 Maccabees 3:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **4 Maccabees 5:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **1 Enoch 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **1 Enoch 65:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **1 Enoch 67:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **1 Enoch 94:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **1 Enoch 95:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **1 Enoch 95:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **1 Enoch 96:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **1 Enoch 100:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **1 Enoch 103:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **Matthew 12:4** how he entered into God's house and ate the show bread, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? **read ›**

135 **Luke 6:4** how he entered into God's house, and took and ate the show bread, and gave also to those who were with him, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests alone?" **read ›**

136 **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, **read ›**

137 **John 6:53** Jesus therefore said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. **read ›**

138 **John 6:54** He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. **read ›**

139 **Acts 5:23** "We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!" **read ›**

140 **Romans 16:8** Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. **read ›**

141 **1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I have written to you not to associate with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; not even to eat with such a person. **read ›**

142 **1 Corinthians 5:13** But God will judge those outside. And you shall remove the evil person from among yourselves. **read ›**

143 **1 Corinthians 10:3** and all ate the same spiritual food; **read ›**

144 **1 Corinthians 10:16** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? **read ›**

145 **1 Corinthians 10:17** Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf of bread. **read ›**

146 **1 Corinthians 10:21** You cannot both drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot both partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons. **read ›**

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147 **1 Corinthians 10:27** But if one of the unbelievers invites you and you wish to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no questions for the sake of conscience. **read ›**

148 **1 Corinthians 11:17** But in giving you this command I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. **read ›**

149 **1 Corinthians 11:20** Therefore, when you come together in one place, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. **read ›**

150 **1 Corinthians 11:21** For when you eat, each one takes his own supper first, and one is hungry while another is drunk. **read ›**

151 **1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, **read ›**

152 **1 Corinthians 11:25** In the same way he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in remembrance of me." **read ›**

153 **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **read ›**

154 **1 Corinthians 11:27** Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks the Lord's cup in a way unworthy of the Lord will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **read ›**

155 **1 Corinthians 11:29** For the one who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment on himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **read ›**

156 **1 Corinthians 11:30** For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and many sleep. **read ›**

157 **1 Corinthians 11:32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. **read ›**

158 **1 Corinthians 11:33** Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **read ›**

159 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

160 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

161 **2 Thessalonians 3:14** If any man does not obey our word in this letter, note that man and have no company with him, to the end that he may be ashamed. **read ›**

162 **1 Timothy 4:3** forbidding marriage and requiring abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful who know the truth. **read ›**

163 **1 Timothy 4:5** For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer. **read ›**

164 **1 Timothy 5:12** having condemnation, because they have abandoned their former faithfulness. **read ›**

165 **Hebrews 10:29** How much worse punishment do you think he will be judged worthy of who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? **read ›**

166 **Hebrews 13:10** We have an altar from which those who serve the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. **read ›**

167 **1 Peter 1:16** because it is written: Be holy, for I am holy. **read ›**

168 **1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But they went out so that it might be made manifest that none of them belong to us. **read ›**

169 **2 John 1:10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or greet him; **read ›**

170 **3 John 1:10** Because of this, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds: he speaks nonsense against us with evil words. And not content with these things, he himself does not receive the brothers, and he prevents those who wish to and casts them out of the church. **read ›**

171 **Jude 1:15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly among them concerning all the works of their ungodliness in which they have acted ungodly, and concerning all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." **read ›**

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Genesis 2:24

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:11 · 55:1

Ezekiel 34:13

Matthew 7:6 · 13:13 · 15:11 · 15:13 · 15:14 · 15:17 · 18:20 · 19:4 · 19:18 · 21:9 · 22:29 · 22:35 · 23:4 · 23:6 · 23:19 · 23:25 · 23:30 · 24:22 · 25:35 · 26:29 · 26:36 · 26:40 · 26:46 · 26:51 · 26:63 · 27:45 · 27:48 · 27:50 · 27:59 · 28:19

Mark 5:9 · 13:14 · 14:22 · 14:25

Luke 2:14 · 3:14 · 20:36 · 22:19

John 1:14 · 6:45 · 6:51 · 13:10 · 15:1 · 16:11

Romans 7:14 · 13:2 · 14:23

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:6 · 7:5 · 8:8

2 Corinthians 3:7 · 3:16 · 4:1 · 4:4 · 6:14 · 6:16 · 7:1 · 12:21

Ephesians 3:15 · 4:4

Philippians 3:19

Colossians 1:15

1 Thessalonians 2:5

2 Thessalonians 2:12

1 Timothy 1:13 · 1:15 · 2:2

Jude 1:23

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early Christians practice closed communion?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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