



Communion

PARENT GUIDE

East White Oak Bible Church practices “open communion” which means that candidates for communion are not examined by pastors and/or church leaders prior to participation in communion.

The congregation is encouraged to “examine themselves” (1 Cor. 11:28) to see whether they are in the faith and then freely participate in the observance established by the Lord. Often parents have questions about when their children are ready to participate in communion. At East White Oak Bible Church that decision is left to the parents.

Christian parents are primarily responsible for overseeing the spiritual development of their children. Preparing a child for participation in the ordinance of communion is an important part of that responsibility. The church is your partner and will facilitate your accomplishment of this high calling through Bible teaching and any practical help or advice you may need along the way. Please call on us if you need some help.

- A. The child should be a professing believer. As a parent you should have clear knowledge of the child’s personal profession of faith in Christ before they are allowed to participate. The child should not participate in communion merely because he or she is in the service and everyone else is partaking. It is better to restrain the child if full understanding is not present.
- B. The child should understand the biblical basis and meaning of a communion service.
- C. The child should show proper reverence and respect in his or her participation. We know that “kids will be kids” but given the admonition of scripture (1 Cor. 11:29), only a child who can appreciate the significance and gravity of the Lord’s body and blood should participate.

Here are some questions that might help you decide whether your child is ready for communion:

1. Does your child profess faith in Christ alone as their hope of forgiveness and salvation?
Romans 3:23, 24
Romans 6:23
2. Does your child know that communion was instituted by Christ for believers to observe?
Matthew 26:26-30
3. Does your child understand that the taking of communion does not save him/her or forgive his/her sins?
Ephesians 2:8, 9
4. Does your child realize that communion is a memorial observed in order to remember the great sacrifice that was made on his/her behalf by Christ on the cross?
1 Corinthians 11:24, 25
5. Does your child know that the bread represents Christ’s body and that the cup represents Christ’s blood?
1 Corinthians 11:24, 25
6. Can your child participate with appropriate silence, prayer, concentration and seriousness?
1 Corinthians 11:27

East White Oak earnestly requests that parents guard against inappropriate participation in this ordinance meant to honor Christ. Please take the time necessary to instruct your children. East White Oak has not established a minimum age for those participating in communion.



East White Oak
BIBLE CHURCH