

**IN HONOR OF COLUMBIA'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**"Sacred Memory"**  
**January 14-16, 2006**

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26 TNIV*

Introduction: Columbia turns 150 years old this year. Over our history, we have developed a distinctive identity as a local outpost of God's Kingdom on earth. In part, that identity is shaped by our common memory, shared even by those who have not been part of this church family very long. An important part of belonging to the Body of Christ, the church, is the inheritance of a shared "sacred memory."

- I. Memories Bond Families
  - A. We are largely defined by our memories and convictions.
  - B. Families are largely defined by their shared memories and convictions.
  - C. Church families are largely defined by their shared memories and convictions.
  - D. The Church Universal is largely defined by its shared sacred memories and convictions.
- II. Memories Must Be Created
  - A. We must realize that we are continually writing our memory.
  - B. We must realize that we are writing our shared memories.
  - C. We must become memory-makers.

- III. Memories Can be Recreated
  - A. Difficult memories can be rewritten through positive experience.
  - B. We must realize that we are continually rewriting our memories.
  - C. Jesus rewrote sacred memory when he redefined the Passover Feast to proclaim the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of the Messianic community, the church.
- IV. Memories Must be Sustained
  - A. We sustain memory by telling the stories.
  - B. We sustain memory by reliving our best recollections.
  - C. We sustain memory through rites and customs.
  - D. We sustain sacred memory in baptism and the Lord's supper.
- V. Memories are the Foundation of the Future
  - A. God's faithfulness in the past assures us of His promises for the future.
  - B. Because we have honored God in the past, we know that we can honor Him in the future.
  - C. Our memory tells us who we are, so our faith tells us what we can be.

Conclusion: I believe that our history is part of what tells us that Columbia is a church of destiny, just as our sacred memories tell us that Christians are people of destiny. Today, we are writing the memories of tomorrow and building the foundations of future faithfulness to God. May all who come behind us find us faithful.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_