

## **"The Great Thanksgiving: The Lord's Supper"**

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#### **Things we Remember!**

#### **What is "The Lord's Supper"?**

1. An act of worship remembering the death of Jesus for our sins and his resurrection

Other names used:

- a. Communion,
- b. The Breaking Of Bread and
- c. The Eucharist (from the Greek eucharisteo, "giving of thanks", which Christ did at the his last Supper with the Apostles- Mt 26:26-27)

"After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you... And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." -Luke 22:17-19, NIV

3. A simple act, in which Christians:.
  - a. Eat bread
  - b. Drink either juice or wine

#### **I. Meaning of Communion**

##### **A. A memorial (to remind us, so we remember) Ever forget something important?...**

1. Note Paul's account as given by the Lord Himself

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." - 1Cor 11:23-25, RSV

1. The bread and juice represent his physical death, that a real sacrifice took place
2. We recall / show respect for the death of Jesus
  - a. *His* death made the new covenant possible
  - b. *His* blood (loss of life) was shed for the forgiveness of sins

-- The Jewish Passover Meal was a memorial remembering the deliverance from God of his people while in Egypt. The Angel of death 'passed over' the houses that had blood from lambs on their doorposts, signifying they were spared God's judgment. Now the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Jesus' death that makes possible our escape from sin!

## **B. A proclamation**

"For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again."

- 1Cor 11:26b, NLT

1. Our faith in salvation through Jesus' death
2. Our faith in Jesus' return
  - So the Lord's Supper looks forward as well as backward

## **C. A Communion**

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

- 1Cor 10:16-17, NIV

1. A fellowship or sharing in the death of Christ
  - As we partake, we demonstrate we are his
2. A fellowship or sharing in the body of Christ
  - As we partake, we demonstrate we belong to each other

## **II. Guidelines for Communion**

### **A. Reverence**

“So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord...For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.” -- 1 Cor 11:27,29, NIV

1. "in a worthy manner"
  - a. KJV says "worthily", a mistranslation
  - b. It is an adverb, describing how we take it, not whether we are worthy (none are truly worthy)
2. Worthy means to have respect for the supreme price Jesus paid for our sins
  - ex: his cruel torture, humiliation, the spiritual anguish he suffered
3. Failure to observe with proper reverence may bring condemnation

“Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.” - 1 Cor 11:28-31, NIV

### **B. Self-examination**

1. What is your spiritual condition?
2. Are you living in a manner that shows appreciation for His sacrifice?
  - a. By accepting Jesus into your life?
  - b. By living for Jesus?
3. Or are you, by willfully sinning, guilty of having made his death into a meaningless event?

### **C. Remembered with others, not alone**

1. Jesus spoke in the midst of community
2. Early church observed a communal meal
  - a. The disciples "came together" to break bread
  - b. When they came together, they were to "wait for one another" - 1Cor 11:33
  - c. There is one loaf, one body, a 'community'

**D. Frequency: 'Whenever you do this'**

1. Early church did it weekly
2. As often as a group of believers desire to 'remember'
3. Question: what matters more—frequency or participation?

**CONCLUSION**

1. "The Lord's Supper" is a very special memorial of His death for our sins...
  - a. Instituted by Jesus Himself, He said 'do this in memory of me'
2. The first Christians "continued steadfastly" in its observance
  - a. Just as they did in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship and prayer - Acts 2:42
  - b. Coming together on the first day of the week for that very purpose - Acts 20:7

**3. Never lose sight of its significance for us:**

- a. Remember: the great sacrifice Jesus paid for our sins
- b. Remember: to take time to examine your life and rededicate your service to the Lord
- c. Remember: your need for communion or fellowship with other believers