

# The Lord's Supper

---

Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

As we continue our “walk with Jesus” sermon series we come to “the Upper Room” where Jesus washed the disciples feet and instituted the ordinance of “the Lord’s Supper,” or “communion” (1 Cor. 10:16).

The Lord’s Supper is an outgrowth of the Jewish Passover Supper (Mt. 27:26; Luke 22:17-19; John 13:1-2).

The Passover celebrates the most important event in Israel's history when God delivered Israel out of bondage in Egypt. It pictures the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, as “*the Lamb of God*”, that delivers us from the bondage of sin (John 1:29).

Christ’s death coincided closely to the slaying of the Jewish Passover Lamb. Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples and a few hours later became the Passover Lamb Himself.

The N.T. Church does not observe the Passover, but we do observe the Lord's Supper as a memorial of “*Christ our passover*” (1 Cor. 5:7). Let’s examine four aspects of Christ instituting this local church ordinance.

## I. **The PREPARING for it** (vs. 17-25).

➡ Just as the disciples had to prepare for the Passover meal, so must we prepare for the Lord’s Supper.

### A. The location of the **PLACE** (vs 17-18).

1. They could not go to a place of their choosing; they must go to the place of God’s choosing.
2. God has a place where He wants us to observe the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:18, 20).

B. The inquiry of the **PARTICIPANTS** (vs. 20- 21). We are to partake with our hearts prepared (1 Cor. 11:28).

## II. **The PICTURE of it** (vs. 26-28).

➡ Jesus took two elements from the Passover feast, the unleavened bread (a matzo), and the cup, to picture His death.

- The Roman Catholic Church teaches the false doctrine of “transubstantiation” that the elements actually become the literal body and blood of Christ.

---

When I pastored in Vermont, I witnessed to a Roman Catholic man (Vince Illuzi) quoting John 1:12. I asked him if he had ever received Christ? He told me he received Christ every Sunday when he took communion. I told him we don’t receive Christ into our stomach, but into our heart.

---

- The bread is unleavened bread. It contains no yeast because yeast is an agent of corruption. Likewise, the cup is pure grape juice, not fermented wine. Fermentation is a process where by corruption occurs. The body and blood of Christ had no corruption or sin. Therefore, the elements of the Lord’s Supper must be free of any corrupting agent. [The Bible never uses the word “wine” in connection with the Lord’s Supper. It always uses the words: “The cup,” or “fruit of the vine.”]
- A. The **BREAD** — Symbol of Christ’s **BODY** (v. 26).
1. The  blessing— Giving thanks. Jesus gave thanks knowing His broken body and shed blood would provide what was needed to save your soul.
  2. The  breaking (v. 26). Breaking is painful and humbling. Christ’s body was broken—Indicates the suffering Christ endured in His body on the cross.
  3. The  bestowing— "*Gave it to the disciples*" (v. 26). This shows salvation is a gift. It is freely given apart from works.
- B. The **CUP** — Symbol of Christ’s **BLOOD**. It is only by the shed blood of Christ that our sins may be washed away.

### III. The **PROPHECY in it** (v. 29 cf. 1 Cor. 11:26).

- A. The Lord’s Supper not only pictured Christ’s death, but also looked ahead to His coming again!

- The Passover lamb had two perspectives (1) Looking back to the deliverance from slavery in Egypt, and (2) a looking forward to the coming of the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world.
  - Likewise, when we participate in taking the Lord's supper, we are not only look back to our deliverance from sin at Calvary, and forward to Christ's soon return to establish His kingdom!
- B. When they ate the Passover in Egypt God told them to keep their coats and shoes on—ready to ride!!!

#### **IV. The PRACTICE of it** (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

- A. It's **REMEMBRANCE**. Jesus did not create a monument out of marble to remind us what He did for us. He did it by instituting a meal with symbols portraying His provision of salvation.
- Charles Stanford tells about an artist who was painting a portrait of the "Lord's Supper." He painstakingly tried to paint the glory radiating from Christ's face. When he was finally satisfied with the painting of Christ's countenance a friend came to visit. Upon seeing the newly completed painting he began to praise how beautiful the cup appeared in the hand of Christ. Immediately the artist took his brush and painted over the cup. He wanted nothing to distract attention from Christ, who was the focus of the painting. So it should be with us! Our focus must not be on the bread or cup, but on the Lord Jesus Christ which they symbolize.
- B. It's **REGULARITY**—"*...as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup...*" This simple memorial is to be repeated until His coming.

#### **SUMMATION:**

- We see His body **suffering**.
- We see His blood **shed**.
- We see believers **saved**.

Just as the shed blood of the Passover Lamb applied to the doorposts of a Jewish household protected them from God judgment, so likewise, the blood of Christ applied to the heart of a believer will save Him from God's judgment in Hell. The blood has been shed, but it needs to be ap-

plied to your heart for you to be saved. Have you accepted Christ's payment for your sins?