

# The Lord's Supper

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Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:17-26; Luke 22:14-30; 1 Cor. 11:21-29

Before we observe the Lord's Supper, I want to take a few moments and review what the Lord's Supper means and why we do it.

The Lord's Supper is an outgrowth of the Jewish Passover Supper (Mt. 27:17-19).

The Passover celebrates the most important event in Israel's history—God's deliverance of 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).

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 seven aspects of Christ instituting this local church ordinance.

## I. **The PREPARING for it** (v. 17).

➡ Just as the disciples had to prepare for the Passover meal, so must we prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:28).

## II. **The PLACE of it** (vs. 17-18).

A. They could not go to a place of their choosing—they must go to the place of God's choosing.

B. God has a place where He wants us to observe the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:18, 20).

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

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

- **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 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*."]
- The body and blood of Christ was incorruptible—It was free of corruption or sin. Therefore, the elements of the Lord's Supper must be free of any corrupting agent.

- A. The **BREAD** — Symbol of Christ's **BODY** (v. 26).
1. The blessing—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 given freely 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.

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

- A. The Lord's Supper not only pictures Christ's death, but also looks ahead to His second coming!
- 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 who would take away the sin of the world.
  - Likewise, when we partake of the Lord's Supper, (1) we look back to our deliverance from sin at Calvary, (2) and look forward to Christ's coming to establish His kingdom!
- B. When Israel ate the Passover in Egypt God told them to keep their coats and shoes on—be ready to leave (Ex. 12:11)!

**V. 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, a friend came to visit. Upon seeing the 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.

**VI. The PARTICIPATES of it** (1 Cor. 10:21; 11:29).

- It is the "**Lord's table**." If you belong to the Lord and you are right with Lord, you are welcome to partake.

**VII. The PERUSAL in it.** (1 Cor. 11:28-32).

- A. The **DISCERNING** (vs. 28-29)—We should take time to examine our relationship with the Lord and with others believers. "*The Lord's body*" (v. 29) is the church (1 Cor. 12:25-27).

- If you are not sure there is sin in our lives, then ask the Lord to examine you as David did. Psalm 139:23-24—"*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: "And see if there be any wicked way in me..."*"
- Parents cannot do this for their children nor children for their parents. Husbands can not do this for their wives or wives for their husbands. You are an individual. You are responsible for own heart's condition with the Lord. So take the time to examine yourself before partaking.

- B. The **DANGER** (vs. 30-32). A warning / caution.

**SUMMATION:** Let's take the time to examine ourselves. Let's pray.