



THE LORD'S SUPPER

"I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

1 Corinthians 10:15-16

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After this same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

There are two local church ordinances found in the Word of God. Those two are baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

What makes these two practices local church ordinances? There are four criteria that help us identify church ordinances:

First, it must be commanded by Christ.

Second, it must be practiced in the book of Acts.

Third, further instruction is given in the Epistles.

Fourth, it must communicate the Gospel message.

When using those criteria, we have two ordinances that qualify: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is said to guard the church from influence that would come from outside the church, while the Lord's Supper is said to keep the church pure from within.

Historical Conflict on the Lord's Supper

Queen Mary took the throne following King Edward from 1553 to 1558. She was called "bloody Mary," and was a staunch Catholic. During her five year reign, she burned about



300 Christians at the stake, and exiled 800 more. She was such a strong Catholic that she married Philip II of Spain in order to secure England for the Pope. One of the doctrines that many were martyred for was the doctrine of the Lord's Supper. Queen Mary held to the belief called "transubstantiation" which many Bible believers refused to except. This idea of Transubstantiation contended that the bread and the fruit of the vine transform themselves into the literal blood and body of Jesus Christ after having been consecrated by the priest. Bible believers rejected such an unbiblical idea and as a result many of them suffered the loss of their lives.

The following study is important to help us understand the Lord's Supper. The Bible will give us much light on this subject that has greatly been corrupted by churches.

I. UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

It is important to know and use the language of the Bible when it comes to the Lord's Supper. Many terms have been renamed and as a result redefined.

A. It is Named

There are words used today associated with the Lord's Supper that are unbiblical in name and practice:

Unbiblical words and practices:

It is called by some the Eucharist, Holy Communion, or the Mass. Those names are associated with an unbiblical practice. For example, the "Mass" means "dismissal," which mean that once a person has partaken of the Mass their sins have been dismissed and they are free to live in the world.

There are four Bible names ascribed to the Lord's Supper:

It is called C_____.

1 Corinthians 10:16, *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*

It is called the L_____ T_____.

1 Corinthians 10:21, *"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."*

It is called the L_____ S_____.

1 Corinthians 11:20, *"When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper."*



It is called the Breaking of B _____.

1 Corinthians 10:16, *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”*

Acts 20:7, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”*

B. It is Defined

The Lord’s Supper is a memorial: and a way to remember our Lord’s blood that was shed for our sins and His body that was broken. It is also a way in which the believer can show the Lord’s death until he comes.

It is to be done in R _____ of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25, *“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

The word “remembrance” tells us that it is a **memorial** and NOT a means of grace.

It does S _____ the Lord’s death.

1 Corinthians 11:26, *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”*

The word “shew” tells us that it is **symbol** and NOT a sacrament.

C. It is Commanded

Twice our Lord said T _____ D _____.

Is observance of the Lord’s Supper a command or a choice? _____.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25, *“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”*



We are commanded to keep the _____ that have delivered.
1 Corinthians 11:2, *“Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.”*

Who delivered those ordinances? _____.
1 Corinthians 11:23, *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:”*

II. COMMUNICATING THE LORD’S SUPPER

It is important to understand the meaning of the Lord’s Supper. There are many differing ideas concerning this subject.

A. The Elements for the Lord’s Supper

There are two elements that are to be part of the Lord’s Supper:

The First is Unleavened Bread

1 Corinthians 11:23; Matthew 26:17, 26

The bread represents the B _____ which is B _____ for you.

1 Corinthians 11:24, *“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”*

This reminds us of the suffering of Christ on the cross of Calvary. (**Isaiah 52:14; 53:4-7; Matthew 27:29-31; John 19:31-37**)

The Second is Fruit of the Vine

Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26

The cup represents the B _____ that was shed for our sins.

1 Corinthians 11:25, *“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin as explained in **Hebrews 9:22** and **1 Peter 1:18, 19**.



Important Note: Nowhere does the Bible refer to “wine” in connection with the Lord’s Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven). In the Bible, leaven is a symbol of sin as seen in 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7. Therefore, alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the spotless Son of God.

B. The Erroneous teaching of the Lord’s Supper

The Error of Transubstantiation

The word “*Trans*” speaks of a “transformation” taking place. The Roman Catholic Church accepted this idea in 1215 AD. When the priest holds up the bread and the cup, he prays, and then the elements are literally transformed into the physical body and blood of Jesus Christ. You may not see the difference, but it happened right before your eyes.

According to their website *catholic.com*, **Transubstantiation for Beginners**,

“In the previous chapter the apostle wrote, “The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is communion with the body of Christ.” His words are clear. The only possible meaning is that the bread and wine at the consecration become Christ’s actual body and blood. Evidently Paul believed that the words Christ had said at the Last Supper, “This is my Body,” meant that really and physically the bread is his body.”

Paragraph from 1376 **of the Catechism of the Catholic Church** states,

“The council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: ‘Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the pieces of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares it again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there take place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of the blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation.’”

The Error of Consubstantiation

This was practiced by the Lutherans and the Anglicans. The word “*Con*” means “*with*.” Meaning that the elements are not literally transformed, but the literal physical presence of Christ is in them. They believe there is some form of saving grace found in taking the Lord’s Supper.



The Error of Covenant Seal

This is practiced by most Presbyterians. This view states that there is not literal presence at all, but there is a spiritual presence, something mystical. This in term bestows a form of invisible grace. As a result people will do bad things and then because of guilt they do their Covenant Seal in order to feel better spiritually.

C. The Expression of the Lord's Supper

We do it in _____ of Christ.

Luke 22:19, *“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”*

We do it to _____ the Lord's death till he come.

1 Corinthians 11:26, *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”*

III. PRACTICING THE LORD'S SUPPER

It is important that our practice be biblical. We consider the following Bible truths to give a practical understanding of this local church Ordinance.

A. The People

The people who are allowed to participate is clearly laid out in Scripture:

Acts 2:41-42, *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

First, Salvation – *“...they that gladly received his word...”*

A person must be born-again and received the gospel of Christ and has been quickened by the Spirit of God.

Second, Baptism – *“...were baptized...”*

A believer must be Scripturally baptized by immersion upon their profession of faith in Christ.



Third, Church Membership – “...there were added unto them...”

The baptized believer must voluntarily join himself to the membership of a local church. It is God’s will for every believer to be part of a local church.

Fourth, Doctrinal Agreement – “...they continued stedfastly in...doctrine...”

The individual must agree with the doctrine of the church, and especially the doctrine of the Lord’s Supper. If someone believes that the Lord’s Supper imparts some form of grace, then he must not participate.

Fifth, Lord’s Supper – “...and in breaking of bread.”

After having proved these biblical requirements, an individual can participate in the Lord’s Supper. The Bible order is of utmost importance.

In the church at Corinth it was clear that those who were partaking in the Lord’s Supper were members of that local church.

He referred to the time when they come _____.

1 Corinthians 11:17, “Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.”

He referred to the time when they come _____ in the _____.

1 Corinthians 11:18, “For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be division among you...”

B. The Pattern

Where are we to partake?

The local church observed it when they came together into _____ place.

1 Corinthians 11:20, “When ye come together therefore into one place...”

The Lord’s Supper is to take place in a regular meeting of the local church. During their habitual gathering they observe it. The Lord’s Supper is an opportunity to communicate the gospel to those who may come in. The church is not a secret society hiding its practices from the world.



When are we to partake?

The Bible does not tell the local churches of a certain number of times to observe the Lord's Supper.

The Bible simply tells us as _____ as.

The Bible tells us we are to do it _____ he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26, *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

Each local church is individually accountable for the observance of the Lord's Supper. It must never become ritualistic by being practiced too often, and it must never become too rare that we forget our blessed Saviour.

Why are we to partake?

We Are Remembering Christ

The church is to do it in _____ of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:24, *"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."*

Luke 22:19, *"And he took, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."*

We Are Declaring Communion

The cup is the _____ of the blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:16, *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*

The word "communion" means "to be in fellowship with, to be in agreement."

How are we to partake?

The individual believer is to _____ himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29, *"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that*



cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

Eating "*unworthily*" means "in an unworthy manner" as the context shows (verse 29).

The word "*damnation*" means "severe judgment." Which we see included physical death according to verse 30.



REVIEW QUESTIONS:

What are local church Ordinances to communicate?

What are the two local church Ordinances?

Name the four expressions used in Scripture in reference to the Lord's Supper:

The word "*remembrance*" means that the Lord's Supper is a M_____.

The word "*shew*" means that the Lord's Supper is a S_____.

What are the two elements used for the Lord's Supper?

What does the fruit of the vine represent?

What does the bread represent?

Why must the two elements be unleavened?

What is the Scriptural order for a proper participant?

First, _____

Second, _____

Third, _____

Fourth, _____

Fifth, _____

How is the believer to partake of the Lord's Supper?
