

The Lord's Supper

Points to Consider

1. The Purpose
2. Learning from New Testament Examples
3. Tradition Verses Command

The Purpose

Matt 26:19-22 *So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"*

Jesus and His twelve apostles are celebrating the _____. The purpose of the Passover was to remember God's deliverance of His people out of Egypt.

John 1:29-31 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."*

John the Baptist attested to the fact that Jesus was the _____ of God sent to take away the sins of the world. (1 Cor 5:7 - Jesus is our Passover)

Luke 22:19-22 *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. 21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"*

The purpose of eating the bread and drinking the cup is to _____ Jesus.

The bread reminds us of His body that He _____ for us.

The cup reminds us of His _____ that He shed for us.

The cup also reminds us that we are in a _____ relationship with Christ. It is the new covenant.

1 Cor 11:23-26 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

Paul adds that as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup we are _____ the Lord's death until He comes again. We believe He died, was resurrected, ascended into heaven, and will return.

Matt 26:65-68 *Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"*

Matt 27:27-31 *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.*

Learning from the New Testament Examples

1 Cor 11:17-22 *Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.*

The Lord's Supper should _____ us. It is what we have in common with one another.

It was _____ the church at Corinth into factions. Divisions - Split or gap; Factions - a choice, a party, or a sect.

They were making a _____ meal out of it. They were eating to get their stomachs full.

1 Cor 11:27-34 *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.*

If we eat in an _____ manner we are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Our _____ should be pure when partaking of the Lord's Supper.

We are not eating to get full. We are not partaking to separate from others. We are not partaking to get drunk.

We are partaking to _____ Christ. That's the whole point!

Acts 20:7 *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

The Lord's Supper was observed on the _____ day of the week.

Summary

The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to _____ Christ.

The emblems we use are unleavened _____, that represents His body, and the _____, that represents His blood.

We are to eat on the _____ day of the week. We believe Scripture teaches that we should observe the Lord's Supper _____ first day of every week.

Tradition vs. Command

- The talk before the Lord's Supper.
- Passing trays down aisles.
- The portion size.
- When and how often? Twice is a tradition. Sunday _____ is a tradition. Every Sunday is a must. All other days of the week would be a violation of Scripture.
 - It would be OK if we only offered it on Sunday morning.
 - It would be OK if we only offered it on Sunday evening.
- _____

What would your reaction be if you were on vacation and you walked into an assembly on Sunday morning and they said they don't offer the "Supper" in the morning, they only partake in the evenings? Why?

What is your gut reaction when you hear of a congregation that only meets once on Sunday mornings? Why?

What do you think when a group meets on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays? Why?

How would you react if the elders decided to have Scripture read during the serving of the Lord's Supper? Why?

We need to know the difference between what Scripture says and what has become our tradition!

We also need to ask ourselves, "What would help us remember the Lord better?"

Is there anything about how we partake of the Lord's Supper that hinders us from keeping our minds focused on Jesus?