

The Lord's Supper

Understanding its significance
contrasted with common errors

Introduction

- Relatively few passages speak of the Lord's Supper but many doctrinal controversies about it persist
- We will briefly contrast these doctrines while emphasizing the significance of the Lord's Supper revealed in the Scriptures
- Our goal is to reject false teaching and follow the Scriptures in observing the Lord's Supper with the right attitudes and behavior

2

Must Worship In Spirit and In Truth

Joh 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Joh 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

3

Literal Partaking of His Body and Blood Or Commemoration

- Roman Catholic teaching is that when we partake of the Supper, the bread and fruit of the vine, they are miraculously changed into the actual body and blood of Jesus
- They further teach the Supper provides forgiveness of sins

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Literal Partaking of His Body and Blood Or Commemoration

- The Scriptures teach the Supper is a memorial where we remember Jesus' death and its importance as we partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine
- Forgiveness of sins must come as Christians repent, confess and pray for forgiveness

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Literal Partaking of His Body and Blood Or Commemoration

Joh 6:53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

Joh 6:54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Joh 6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

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Literal Partaking of His Body and Blood Or Commemoration

Joh 6:56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Joh 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

Joh 6:48 "I am the bread of life.

Joh 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

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Commemoration – Remembering Jesus' Death

Mat 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Mat 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

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Commemoration – Remembering Jesus' Death

Luk 22:19 And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Luk 22:20 And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

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Forgiveness For Christians Through Repentance Confession and Prayer

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Elements To Be Used In Commemorating Jesus' Death

- Jesus instituted the Supper during Passover where all leaven was prohibited in Jewish households for seven days
- Therefore, the elements used in the Supper were unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine
- Some wrongly teach we must have only one physical cup instead of focusing on the fruit of the vine Jesus commands

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Elements To Be Used In Commemorating Jesus' Death

Exo 12:18 'In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

Exo 12:19 'Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* an alien or a native of the land.

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Elements To Be Used In Commemorating Jesus' Death

Exo 12:20 'You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'

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Elements To Be Used In Commemorating Jesus' Death

Mat 26:17 Now on the first *day* of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

Mat 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

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Elements To Be Used In Commemorating Jesus' Death

Luk 22:18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes."

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The Cup Refers To The Contents It Contains

Luk 22:20 And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

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Communion – Sharing Together In His Body and Blood

- As we partake of the Supper together, we are sharing in the body and blood of Jesus
- Some teach that for us to share together we must partake of the Supper at the same time in the same Sunday assembly
- They believe it is wrong for only some to partake of the Supper in a "second" service on Sunday
- Therefore either none or all should partake of the Supper in a "second" service

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Communion – Sharing Together In His Body and Blood

- But, the Scriptures do not bind us to specifics like this but do give us the day on which we are to partake, the elements of the Supper and that we are to partake when we are assembled together
- The sharing is distributive not collective
- The Scriptures do condemn changing the purpose of the Lord's Supper based on carnal divisions among brethren

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Communion – Sharing Together In His Body and Blood

1Co 10:16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

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Communion – Sharing Together On Every First Day of The Week

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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Divisions and Perversions of The Supper Condemned

1Co 11:18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

1Co 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

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Divisions and Perversions of The Supper Condemned

1Co 11:21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? 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 will not praise you.

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Divisions and Perversions of The Supper Condemned

1Co 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

1Co 11:34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

23

Proclamation – Belief In Jesus' Death and Resurrection

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

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Proclamation – Belief In Jesus’ Death and Resurrection

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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Anticipation – Look Forward To Jesus’ Coming Again

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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Anticipation – Look Forward To Jesus’ Coming Again

1Th 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

1Th 5:2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

1Th 5:6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

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Dedication – Examine Yourself In Light of The New Covenant

- Sometimes it is proposed that we prohibit individuals from partaking of the Supper
- But, it is clear, we are to examine ourselves, not someone else
- We teach the truth about the Supper and leave it up to each individual to determine if they are partaking in a worthy manner

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Dedication – Examine Yourself In Light of The New Covenant

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

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Dedication – Examine Yourself In Light of The New Covenant

1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

1Co 11:28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

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Dedication – Examine Yourself In Light of The New Covenant

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

1Co 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

1Co 11:31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. ³¹

The Lord's Supper

1. Commemoration
2. Communion
3. Proclamation
4. Anticipation
5. Dedication