

## When Are We Authorized To Partake of The Lord's Supper?

Acts 20:7

## Introduction

- The Lord's Supper is a Divinely instituted memorial given by Jesus that we are commanded to observe
- It is clear that first century Christians did partake of the Lord's Supper
- Today, it is also clear that many who claim to be Christians partake of the supper at various times, Sunday and other days, one Sunday per month or per quarter or maybe per year

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## Introduction

- In this local church, we partake of the supper every first day of the week, every Sunday
- Do we do this out of human tradition or is there Divine authority for such action?
- Acts 20:7 stands as our only indication of Divine authority concerning when we must partake of the supper

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## When Are We Authorized To Partake of The Lord's Supper?

1. Review some Scriptures about the Lord's Supper
2. Acts 20:7 is the only Scripture authorizing when we must partake of the supper
3. What Acts 20:7 does not say

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## Review Some Scriptures About The Lord's Supper

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;

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## Review Some Scriptures About The Lord's Supper

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

Mat 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

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## Review Some Scriptures About The Lord's Supper

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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## Review Some Scriptures About The Lord's Supper

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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## Review Some Scriptures About The Lord's Supper

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.

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

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Acts 20:7 is the only Scripture authorizing when we must partake of the supper

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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## Acts 20:7 Is An Approved Apostolic Example

1Co 4:16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

1Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

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## Paul Purposely Waited Seven Days To Assemble With The Saints At Troas

Act 20:6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

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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Every First Day of The Week They  
Assembled To Break Bread, Partake of The  
Lord's Supper

Mat 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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Every First Day of The Week They  
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1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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On The First Day of The Week  
Paul Preached To Them

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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On The First Day of The Week  
Paul Preached To Them

- Word translated "talking" in NASB is translated "preached" in the KJV
- Other places translated as dispute, reason or argue
- 1. dialegomai (G1256), akin to A No. 1, primarily signifies "to think different things with oneself, to ponder"; then, with other persons, "to converse, argue, dispute"; From Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

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What Acts 20:7 Does Not Say

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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## What Acts 20:7 Does Not Say

- Sometimes sincere brethren have great controversies about the Lord's Supper
- One example is, some believe we should partake of the Lord's Supper only during one assembly of a local church on each Sunday

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## What Acts 20:7 Does Not Say

- If a local church that has a Sunday evening service allows those to partake of the Supper who were unable to do so earlier, then they are going beyond the authorized apostolic example

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## Why The Confusion?

- Confusion comes over Paul instructing the Corinthian saints to wait for one another to prevent perverting the Lord's Supper
- The Corinthians had apparently replaced the Lord's Supper with a worldly feast where there was excess in food and intoxicating beverages
- They were also withholding food from the poorer members

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## Paul Corrects The Corinthians' Perversion of The Lord's Supper

1Co 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, 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. 22

## Paul Corrects The Corinthians' Perversion of The Lord's Supper

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.

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## Does Paul Prohibit Serving Members The Lord's Supper On Sunday Evening?

- Although the Lord's Supper is to be observed when we are assembled together as a local church, partaking of the supper is an individual action
- As long as individual Christians partake of the Lord's Supper when the saints are assembled on the first day of the week, then we are not violating Divine authority

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## The Lord's Supper Individual Action Done When A Local Church Is Assembled

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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## What Is Clearly Authorized Regarding The Lord's Supper

1. The day we must observe it
2. In what setting we must observe it
3. The elements of the supper
4. What the elements represent
5. The manner that each individual is to partake of the supper
6. To go beyond these things is to cause needless division where there should be none

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