

Reference: VARIOUS

Church: GRACE

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## Worship - The Lord's Supper

Purpose: To show what is taught in the Lord's supper, what is proclaimed and is the result of eating it with or without discernment.

### 1. Introduction

Continuing series on worship

What have we seen so far?

What is worship?

What place do the 10 commandments have?

What important principle did we see next?

Then looked at preaching

Then at prayer, then at singing

What did we look at next?

Were call to worship, reading of Scripture, offering and benediction parts of worship in the early church?

This week – Lord's supper

### 2. Biblical evidence for its place in worship

It is commanded – and keeping the commands is worship

Matthew 26:26-29 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." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 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."

Luke 22:14-20 When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; 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." 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.**" 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."

The early church clearly did it as part of public worship

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

Acts 2:46 **Day by day** continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Acts 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.

How often did they break bread?

Once a year? Once a month?

The meal directs our spiritual gaze in many directions:

### 3. Look back!

*Do this in remembrance of Me*

Origin in the Passover

Redemption for Israel from slavery in Egypt

Slain lamb – blood saved

Then it looked forward to what Christ would do

Here we look back to redemption accomplished for us

Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed

Broken body, shed blood

Separate body & blood = death

The blood is the life

Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins

Graphic representation of the cost of redemption

### 4. Look up!

The meal speaks of God's love for His people

God demonstrated His love in the death of Christ

It also speaks of our union with Christ

John 6:47-58 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." 52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" 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. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I

live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

The manna was a picture of Christ  
It sustained God's people in the wilderness  
True believers feed their souls on Christ  
They are joined to Him with bonds that cannot be broken  
We partake of Christ in the elements  
Not physical body and blood  
Yet grace is available to believers  
It is received by faith – as we see Christ portrayed in the bread and the wine  
The meal is a means of grace to the believer

## 5. Look around

The meal speaks of the unity of the church

1 Corinthians 10:14-21 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. **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? 17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.** 18 Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? 19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

We all eat the same bread and drink the same wine  
We all are joined to the same Christ  
Therefore we are all joined to one another  
We all love one another deeply  
Just as He loved us and gave Himself up for us  
This is betokened in the supper

## 6. Look forward

The wedding supper anticipated

Luke 22:14-15 When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

The complete redemption, body and spirit, of all for whom Christ died is the ultimate fulfillment of this meal

The wedding feast of the lamb  
All His ransomed will sit with Him at the table & enjoy Him forever  
Then fully united with Him in way the meal pictures here  
Then fully joined to one another as it speaks

## 7. Look in!

Need for self examination

1 Cor 11:28-31 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

We are on holy ground at the Lord's table  
We have in symbol before us the blood of the covenant which saved us  
We have in symbol the body of the One who gave Himself up for us  
We dare not treat them as an unholy thing  
Considering all that the meal speaks of, we dare not take it lightly  
We dare not harbor malice, hatred or any other sin against a brother  
And come to a table that says we are one  
We dare not as unbelievers take part in a meal that says we are joined to Christ  
That the benefits of His death are ours when they are not  
Take a meal which expresses our love for Him who first loved us, if we do not love Him

## 8. Look out!

This is a proclamation of His death

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

The Lord's table is a sermon  
It heralds the Gospel to all who will listen to it  
Here is God's love for sinful men  
Here is life arising from the death of Christ  
Here is redemption in His blood

Here is union with Him, a united, redeemed people through His death

## 9. How should we eat of it?

Problem in Corinth

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. 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. 19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, 21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 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. 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; 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." 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." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 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. 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 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.

See how enormous their problem was?

Were they united?

Were they loving towards one another?

Were they "rightly judging the body"? (the church)

Were they treating these things as holy?

So how should we eat?

In full recognition of all we are taught in the meal

With reverence, awe, wonder, love, joy, grief

## 10. Conclusions

Remember the principles

Reverence, respect, awe, fear, honor

Keeping the commandments – love for God and one another  
As a reflection of the character of God

Next week, some aspects of the service of worship  
How it may best be arranged.