

## The Lord's Supper

What is the importance of the Lord's Supper to the church? First, consider that it was instituted by the Lord Himself as the way for His followers to remember Him (**Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20**). Second, the heart of the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**). Third it is one of the references used for the Christians meeting together (**Acts 20:7**).

Sometimes we stress the importance of the Lord's Supper to the individual (**1 Corinthians 11:26-32**). We may feel that we need to be at the assembly to partake of the Lord's Supper. Once we have done that, we have fulfilled our "obligation." If we partake in an unworthy manner, we are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (**1 Corinthians 11:27-30**). Therefore, we have placed little emphasis on the church as the whole body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 10:17**).

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it (**1 Corinthians 11:23-24**). He would have used unleavened bread because of the Passover Feast (i.e., **Exodus 12:17-20**). He took the cup, the fruit of the vine (**Matthew 26:27-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**). This also would be free from leaven.

We think about His physical body on the cross and His blood coming from the wounds. Do we stress the material aspects and forget the spiritual application? Do we consider His spiritual body, the church and His blood bringing in the New Covenant which includes the church? For although we are many, we are one bread and one body (**1 Corinthians 10:16-17**).

Partaking of the Lord's Supper involves several elements that have reference to time. It has reference to the past. Do this in remembrance of His death, to show His death on the cross for our sins (**1 Corinthians 11:26**). It has reference to the present. When you come together in one place as one body spiritually (**1 Corinthians 11:20**). It has reference to the future. We are to do it until He comes again to deliver the Kingdom to God (**1 Corinthians 11:26; 15:24**).

Yes, we are to remember His physical body (**1 Corinthians 11:24**). And Paul will talk about our importance in the spiritual body (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5**). Jesus shed His blood to purchase the church (**Acts 20:28**). He is the Savior of the body, the church (**Ephesians 5:23**). For there to be salvation, we must be part of His spiritual body.

We are to consistently be considerate of one another (**Romans 14:12-14; 15:1-2**). We must remember that when we sin against the brethren, we sin against Christ (**1 Corinthians 8:12**). We are to remember that we are in the one body of Christ (**Colossians 3:15**). Indeed, it is the blood of Christ that ties us together (**1 Corinthians 10:16**). We are also of one blood physically (**Acts 17:26**).

We are not our own, we were bought with the blood of Christ (**1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:19**). Whether we live or die we are the Lord's (**Romans 14:7-8**). Are we glorifying Christ as we gather together as the one body of Christ (**Ephesians 1:10**)? We are not to be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever we sow, that we shall reap (**Galatians 6:7-8**).

Look at some of the "one another" passages. We are to give preference to one another (**Romans 12:10**). We are to forgive one another (**Ephesians 4:32**). We are to love one another (**1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 4:7**). We are to consider one another (**Hebrews 10:24**).

Paul would tell the Corinthians to remember that we are workers together with Christ. Therefore, we plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain (**2 Corinthians 6:1-3**). The love of Christ is to constrain us in our relationship to one another (**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**). May our life be such that God is not ashamed to be called our God (**Hebrews 11:16**).

Something to think about!

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