

## Lords Supper

Matthew 26.26-29, 1 Corinthians 10.16-22, 11.17-34

### Main Idea

The Lords Supper is the Table of the Lord whereby the believer looks to the past in participation, to the present in proclamation, and to the future in anticipation.

### Overview

#### **Where does the Lords Supper come from & What do the elements mean? (Matt. 26.26-29, Mark 14.22-25, Luke 22.18-20)**

- Passover Meal (Exodus 12) was the reminder of Gods delivery of His people from slavery to freedom by the blood of an unblemished lamb
- Christ institutes the Lords Supper in the context of the Passover meal:
  - The Passover meal then was made to point to the work of Christ
- The bread (likely unleavened) was meant to point to the body of Christ that was broken for sinners
- The Cup was meant to represent the Cup of the New Covenant where His blood was spilt for sinners in order to bring about the forgiveness of sin (Matt. 26.28)
- Romans Catholics take Jesus' words literally:
  - The Priest's words transform the elements into the actual body/blood of Christ
  - The participant must take the elements in order to have remission of sins
    - We would disagree for two important reasons:
      - Jesus often spoke in metaphorical language (Vine: John 15.5, Gate/door: John 10.9), therefore there is no need to take the words of Jesus in a literal manner
      - If we need to eat of the Supper in order to be justified that would mean Jesus' work is not finished (Heb. 9.26) and justification does not come by faith (2.16, etc.)
- Lutherans believe in the same Gospel as us, however they still want to say that the elements contain the presence of Christ because Martin Luther wanted to maintain the literalness of Jesus' words:
  - Jesus was speaking metaphorically

#### **How should this meal be celebrated (Why is it important)?**

- Look to the past in participation (Luke 22.19, 1 Cor. 10.16-17)
  - The Lords Supper is a meal whereby we participate in the drama of the Gospel through our remembering our union with Christ's atoning work (Galatians 2.20)
    - We participate with our minds (remembering), our eyes (seeing elements), and our tongues (tasting the elements)
- Look to the present in proclamation (1 Cor. 11.26 & 17)
  - We look around at our fellow brothers and sisters in the Faith that make up the church (the assembly of Gods people) who are making a proclamation about their faith in Christ:
    - As Baptism proclaims Faith and union, so does the Lords Supper
- Look to the future in anticipation (1 Cor. 11.26, Matt. 26.29, Revelation 19.6-9)
  - By taking this meal we are reminded to look forward to the day where we will finally sit and eat at the Lords Table as His bride

#### **Who is the meal for?**

- Believers: (1 Corinthians 10.16-17, 11.26)

- Repentant: (Matt. 5.23-24): Jesus wouldn't desire us to participate in the drama of the Gospel if we are willfully persisting in the sins that He died to take away
- Self-Examined: (1 Cor. 11.17-22, 28-30): For us to repent it would follow that we need to examine ourselves to make sure there are no sins that defame the unity we have in the Gospel

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Describe some meals you have shared in the past (Thanksgiving, etc.) that have served to encourage intimacy, remembering, and unity.*

1. What OT event is the Lords Supper born out of? Why is this significant?
2. What does the Bread point to? Blood? How do you know?
3. Why is the body and blood so crucial to the Gospel?
4. How should the Lords Supper be celebrated?
5. What are some reasons why a participant should not celebrate the Lords Supper?
6. How does the Lords Supper serve to encourage the local church's unity and mission?
7. Take the time to invite others how they are growing in their understanding of the church with a deeper understanding of the Word, Baptism, and the Lords Supper.

**Accountability Question:** *Are there any sins of omission/commission against others that you need to confess and accountability in following up on before the next Lords Table?*

*How are you encouraged by the ways others in the group are pursuing unity in the Gospel as Restoration Church?*