

Luke 22:1-23

sec 1. “Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body & blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; ...”

A. The word “instituted” here means founded, established, or inaugurated.

1. When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, it wasn’t done from scratch. It had a foundation in the Passover.

a. → Turn to **Ex 12:1-13**.

b. For years prior I not was 100% sure how to explain **v14**, yet thankfully not any long: **“Now this day will be a memorial to you, & you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.”**

1) Some may ask, “Shouldn’t we celebrate the Passover? This verse says, **“you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.”** Are we in sin not to?”

2) **1 Cor 5:7** says, **“Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”**

3) The Passover lamb or goat was the type or shadow; Jesus is fulfillment & reality. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God!” (Jn 1:36).**

2. When Jesus “instituted” the Lord’s Supper, He commanded that it be done in His Church, saying, **“do this in remembrance of Me” (Lu 22:19).**

B. When the WCF says, “Lord's Supper, [is] to be observed in His church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, that comes from **1 Cor 11:26** wherein Paul said by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, **“For as often as you eat this bread & drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”**”

As we just read, the Lord’s Supper is to be a “perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death;” however, the WCF goes on to say that this sacrament involves more than just remembrance. Sec 1 continues by saying that it involves: “the sealing all benefits thereof [His sacrifice] unto true believers, ...” Lets look at these benefits given to true believers:

A. It is for “their spiritual nourishment & growth in Him,”

1. In other words, it is a means of grace that offers spiritual nourishment & growth when taken in a way that is pleasing to God.

2. Yes, we are to be spiritually fed by the Word of God, yet the Lord’s Supper is like a physically illustrated sermon.

3. Based on Paul’s warning in **1 Cor 11**, you have heard many OPC ministers point out the spiritual & physical damage you can bring to yourself if you take in an unworthy manner; however, the beautiful opposite is true as well. If you take in a worthy manner, God gives you spiritual nourishment & growth in Jesus.

B. The sacrament is for “their further engagement in & to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond & pledge of their communion with Him, & with each other, as members of His mystical body” (sec 1).

1. This language is reminiscent of the origin of the word “sacrament.”

a. The ecclesiastical term “sacrament” came from the Latin “sacramentum” which was often used by the Roman military.

1) The “sacramentum” was an oath of allegiance a soldier would take. He would promise to serve & protect Rome with his life.

2) We take a similar oath of allegiance to Christ when we 1st partake of the Holy Supper. Each following time we partake, we are renewing our oath of allegiance.

b. The language in the WCF here is rich in our giving allegiance to Christ as our Lord & Savior:

1) [our] “further engagement in & to all duties which they owe unto Him”

2) [their] “bond & pledge of their communion with Him & with each other, as members of His mystical body”

a) Think of it as a “pledge” of loyalty to Christ

b) It is also a “pledge” of loyalty to “each other” — to the church.

c) The word “bond” should remind us that we have a covenant “bond” to Christ and to one another.

2. Why do we have “duties which they owe unto Him” — to Jesus Christ in the first place?

a. In our modern era we detest the notion of being a slave to anyone; however, Scripture speaks of our relationship to Christ as a slave that was purchased by His sacrificial blood.

b. **1 Cor 6:19-20: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, & that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”**