

Lord's Supper - A Call to Remember

1Cor. 11:23-32

There are two ordinances Christ has given to the church. Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is administered to the person who comes to repent and place faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a one-time event for that individual.

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance to remember the Lord's Death. It's a repeated event for all believers. It's an occasion to memorialize the Death of our Lord Jesus. Someone might ask, "What about his life?" Is there not an ordinance to memorialize His life? Great personalities who pass on are given memorials. You think, for example, the Lincoln Memorial serves to give emphasis to the accomplishments of President Abraham Lincoln. We don't celebrate his death, but rather his life. Not true with our Lord Jesus. He gave us a way to celebrate His death. How about his life? There is no special ceremony for that. There's a reason. His followers serve as His memorial. We are the Lord's witnesses. Paul said it this way, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20)

Christ lives in us. We reflect His likeness in daily conduct and behavior. We take on the mind of Christ, the love of Christ, and the humility of Christ. We walk as He walked. He abides in us, and we abide in him.

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. **(1John 2:6)**

We are nowhere commanded in the scriptures to remember, or memorialize His birth. Yes, Jesus was born of the virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. When you follow the life of the early church, nothing is said about having a special day to celebrate His birth. The emphasis is His death on the cross.

We are saved by His death. We are not saved by His birth. It was a glorious birth, a miraculous birth, but our salvation is not based on his birth, or even based on the life he lived.

We are saved by the life he gave. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. He saves us through His death on the cross of Calvary. The Lord's Supper was given to us by Christ so we will REMEMBER.

It's a CALL TO REMEMBER by first of all...

1. LOOK BACK and remember Christ's finished work on the cross. **(vv.23-25)**

READ vv.23-24 Paul writes down here in 1Cor. 11:23 what he received from the Lord...

(read) Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had.....

BREAD - this is my body, which is for you.

THIS IS MY BODY..... There are those who say the "bread" offered at the Lord's table actually becomes the BODY of Jesus. It's a false teaching called **transubstantiation**.¹

Jesus said of the BREAD - This is my body.

Jesus said of the CUP - this is my blood.

Those who hold to this false teaching called transubstantiation believe the bread literally becomes the BODY of Christ; and the cup (the substance in the cup---the grape juice) literally becomes the BLOOD of Christ.

Let's say you are talking with a friend, and you say, can I show you my family? Your friend says, "sure". You pull out your phone, and scroll through some pictures...and come to a family photo....and say... Look! here's my family..... your friend might say, "no" "that's not your family" Of course it is, look there's mom, dad, brother, sisters...it's us...it's my family.

NO. it's only a PICTURE of your family. Your family is back home somewhere.

The BREAD, the CUP.... Is NOT literally the Body and the Blood of Jesus. It's only a PICTURE.

A Picture helps us to remember a dear family member, or a precious friend who has passed away.

The Lord's Supper serves that purpose for us to REMEMBER the purpose for which Jesus came into the world. He came to REDEEM us. To SAVE us.

- We remember how he came to pay the full penalty for sin.
- JESUS said... **my body is FOR YOU**. It was for your benefit. Your salvation. Do this in remembrance of me.

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified **1Cor. 2:1-2**

WE might forget how Jesus opened up the blind eyes.

We might forget how He walked on the water.

We might forget how He multiplied the fish and bread to feed over 5000 people.

We might forget how he raised Lazarus from the dead.....

We should never forget such glorious events, but first and foremost we must NEVER forget the *PURPOSE FOR WHICH JESUS CAME*. *It must be foremost in our thinking! In our worship! In our Bible Study! In our prayers! In our preaching!*

¹ According to Roman Catholic theology

That's why Jesus said..... Do this in remembrance of ME !

The BREAD – points to the Body of Jesus... It was unleavened bread. No fermenting elements in the dough. Jesus had nothing in himself that was sinful, and contaminating. He was pure, sinless, without sin.

Jesus said - I am the BREAD OF LIFE.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

THE CUP----- during the Passover meal.... 4 cups of wine were taken...each one had a certain meaning... Cup 1- Cup of sanctification Cup 2- Cup of judgment Cup 3- Cup of redemption 4 – Cup of praise

Luke 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Notice v.25 the cup- this cup is the **new covenant** in my blood.

NEW COVENANT means there's an OLD COVENANT. What's the OLD Covenant?

In the Old Testament God chose a certain peoplethe Jewish people...the Israelites and he separated them from all the other people of the world by giving them His laws, certain rituals and religious ceremonies to carry out...and God required blood sacrifices because of sin. God defined to the Israelites what was sin by giving the 10 commandments.

The people in the Old Testament were required to bring an animal sacrifice because of sin. The animal sacrifices were given repeatedly....daily.... weekly.....yearly...

Hebrews 10:3-4 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

(The PROMISE of a NEW COVENANT)

Jeremiah 31:31-33

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The purpose for the Lord's Supper is to make much of the Lord's Death. To the world it seems so silly to boast of the cross of Christ. Charles Spurgeon said,

"It is first, because it was for His death that Christ was most despised, therefore, for His death let Him be most honored."²

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**

First, A Call to Remember by Looking Back to the Cross.

2. A Call to Remember by LOOKING INSIDE for self-examination vv.27-28

v.28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

The Corinthian church was guilty of neglecting to honor and respect each member of the church, which is called the Body of Christ. Notice v.29 **For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.**

v.30 that's why many in that church had become weak and ill, and some have died.

It's a serious thing when we dishonor other members of the Body of Christ.

What was going on?

v.18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church.....

(Explain vv.18-22)

Self-Examination - very important to avoid participating in observing the Lord's Supper in an UNWORTHY MANNER.

If we partake of the Lord's Supper and we knowingly have unconfessed sins then we may be partaking in an unworthy manner. We must repent. The Bible says,

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

² [THE LORD'S SUPPER \(spurgeongems.org\)](http://spurgeongems.org)

Psalm 134:23-24 ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Who should NOT participate in the Lord's Supper? Not everyone should take the BREAD and the Cup at the Table of the Lord.

The same is true for the ORDINANCE of Baptism. Not everyone should participate in the ordinance of Baptism. For example, let's say a person has not given evidence of repentance and refuse to admit to others of his/her sin. They refuse to acknowledge themselves to be a sinner. That person is not ready to be baptized. Repentance to God and faith in Christ comes first before there is a public baptism.

With the Lord's Supper there is what's called "fencing the table". A fence around the table keeping certain people away from partaking of the Supper. That means, No one who knowingly is unrepentant, or has sinned in such way that damages relationships within the Body of Christ should take of the Lord's Supper until such matters are made right. No Christian who is under church discipline should partake as well.

An unbeliever should not take part. One who is yet to confess faith in Christ must not take part in the Lord's table until they have publicly confessed Christ and follow the Lord in Believer's Baptism.

1Cor. 10:16

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

When we speak of self-examination, we are not suggesting you must feel as if you have no sin. You don't wait until you think you are HOLY enough. No one is "holy" enough to earn a right to the Lord's table. We have remaining sin as a believer. It's not that we must feel as if we are worthy enough to partake of the Lord's Supper. We are not "worthy" within ourselves. We come with our weaknesses, our frailties, our shortcomings, and we fall upon Christ who bore all of our sins. We come in humility remembering our sins were paid in full by the Lord Jesus when He suffered and died on the cross.

3. Call to Remember as we **LOOK AROUND** and acknowledge our fellow brothers and sisters who share the same Supper with us.

v.17 come together...not for the better but for the worse... The Corinthian church had some problems to deal with. They were not coming together in unity. There was division, various factions in the church. This was hindering God's blessings. What they were doing actually brought chastisement upon them. It got so bad; the Lord had to take some of them out. I mean literally "take them out"... they died. **(see v.30)**

Sin is serious...sin in the world is bad, but sin in the church is much worse. We read of a couple in the early church who pretended to give so much money to the church. They lied about it.

Acts 5:1-10 Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property...lied to the Holy Spirit... died right there in church.

We partake together as a local church... a body of believers collectively. The Lord's Supper is not taken individually, or taken at home separate from the fellowship of the local church. It's meant to be shared together. We are a community of believers, sharing the life of Christ together. The devil worked hard to bring division in the church at Corinth. There were different groups following different leaders in the church. You had the group who only followed Paul. Some followed Apollos. Others followed Cephas (or Peter). Then there was the group who followed no one, they said we follow Christ. They wouldn't listen to anyone. They are like those who stay home, and get under no one's preaching. Me and Jesus have got it all worked out. This creates division and strife.

(Read v.33-34) "wait" or "share with one another" wait on each other. Serve each other. Do this together.

We share so much in common. We are all sinners saved by grace.

We are all in need of the Savior. We come together to pray and worship the same God. the Same Lord.

There's one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all.

We share this supper together rejoicing in the common salvation that's been graciously given to us.

4. Call to Remember as we LOOK AHEAD to the Lord's Coming
v.26 "until He comes"

LOOK AHEAD to the Lord's Return.....Jesus promised He WAS coming...

Matthew 26:29

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

We have been invited to the marriage supper of lamb.

Revelation 19:9

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

We talked about the 4 cups at the Lord's Supper.... The cup of sanctification...the cup of judgment.... The cup of redemption...This was the cup Jesus used to initiate the Lord's Supper... the cup of redemption...Jesus gave it to his disciples to drink....

The fourth cup was not a part of the Lord's Supper.... The cup of praise (cup of consummation)....it's a future cup that will be drunk at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Some scholars say Jesus did not drink this 3rd cup of redemption at the Lord's Supper because it was for the disciples. Jesus did not need to drink of it, because He had no sins to be forgiven. He had no need to be REDEEMED. He passed the cup around to the disciples....

Jesus did drink the cup of redemption....at the CROSS> He first prayed.

Matthew 26:39, 42

³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, **let this cup pass from me**; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass **unless I drink it**, your will be done."

Prayed the third time saying the same words.....

Interesting story I read...I have this book in my study...

In his book *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*, Charles Swindoll relates the story of an eight year- old Kenyan girl, Monica, who fell into a pit and broke her leg. Mama Njeri, an older woman, seeing what had happened, climbed into the pit to rescue Monica. In the pit a black mamba, the most poisonous snake in Africa, bit both Monica and Mama Njeri. Both ladies were rushed to a medical center; Monica improved, but tragically, Mama Njeri died. A nurse missionary explained to Monica that Mama Njeri was bitten first and thus received all of the mamba's poison. When the snake bit Monica, it had no poison left. The nurse went on to explain that Jesus had similarly taken the poison of our sin so that we can live. Monica understood and readily received Christ.¹

Jesus took the FULL DOSE...the full wrath for Sin...He Died ...He TOOK the Poison...so that we Could LIVE!