

## I Corinthians 11; Lord's Day 30

### PROPER OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- I. Proper presentation.
  - A. The Biblical and Reformed understanding of Christ's presence in the Supper is that He is present only in a spiritual sense.
    1. First, Jesus is locally in heaven, no longer on the earth.
    2. Thus Christ can be only represented in the Supper in a spiritual sense.
  - B. Thus we reject any concept of Christ's presence being physical.
    1. The church of Rome believes Jesus is physically present in the elements – transubstantiation.
    2. Also Rome's mass is a repeated sacrificing of Jesus every time the bread is broken and the wine poured.
- II. The proper administration of the sacrament.
  - A. Spiritual administration means: Jesus is seen as the Host is represented in the elders.
  - B. Second, spiritual administration requires the preaching which displays the Jesus and the death He died.
  - C. Third, spiritual administration requires that the Lord's Table be guarded.
    1. We practice "close," not "open communion" (the historic Reformed practice).
    2. And the elders determine which non-members may partake, judging closeness in doctrine and practice.
    3. And the elders supervise who partakes by discipline: silent censure prevents those no believing or living rightly (I Cor. 5:11).
- III. Proper partaking requires the exercise of active faith.
  - A. Proper receiving and eating of the elements requires a soul seeking and finding forgiveness in Jesus.
  - B. Three kinds of improper partakers, who ought to keep themselves from the Table, lest they eat to their condemnation.
  - C. When we sincerely partake by faith, then blessings result for the believers and for the church.