

“Blessed and Mystical Participation” (Gen 28:16–22; 1 Cor 10:16, 17)
GCC, Morning Worship, Communion Sunday
7 Feb 2021

Introduction:

- A. Taco Bell vs. the Real Thing
- B. Jesus is the real thing! All other offers are counterfeit
- C. We are constantly coming back to the “real thing” in our corporate worship and the Lord’s Supper (LS) is no exception.

How do you come to the table of the Lord and Why?

I. We should come to the table of the Lord with...(Gen 28:16–22)

- A. **Dread**-- (Gen 28:16–17)
- B. **Devotion** (Gen 28:18–22)
- C. **Delight**—(1 Cor 10:16, 17; Rom 8:32)

II. Why?

- A. Because the LS is a return to the center, where Christ should be
- B. Because the LS is *participation with the risen Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor 10:16, 17)
- C. What does participation with Christ mean?
 - 1. Participation is more than simply recognizing Jesus’ omnipresence, **it is meeting him at the table.**
 - 2. Participation is more than simply being saved, **it is being fed in that salvation.**
 - 3. Participation is more than simply remembering a dead friend (memorial view), **it is spiritually feeding upon the risen Lord** (1 Cor 1:9).
 - 4. **Participation is sacramental**
 - a. 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith (2LBC) 30.1:
The supper is to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Christ and each other
 - b. The sign and the thing signified are so closely related, even if they are separate, that sometimes Jesus and the apostles call the elements by what they represent (2LBC 30.5):
The outward elements in this ordinance, properly set apart for the use ordained by Christ, have such a relationship to Christ crucified that they are sometimes called—truly though figuratively—by the names of the things they represent, that is, the body and blood of Christ. However, in substance and nature they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before.
 - 5. **Participation is through the absence or presence of genuine faith** (1 Cor 11:27–31; cf. 2LBC 30.7)
 - 6. **Participation is a renunciation of anything and anyone who stands in the way of your devotion to Christ** (1 Cor 10:21)

III. **Come to the Table with:**

- A. A **Blanket** (1 Peter 4:8)
- B. If you can't throw a blanket of love over an offense, bring a **soft voice to your brother** (Matt 5:23–24)
- C. A **magnifying glass** to examine your heart (1 Cor 11:27–32; 2 Cor 13:5)
- D. A **Hammer** to build up your brother (1 Cor 8:1; Eph 4:16)
- E. An **uplifted gaze** at the LORD Jesus in all his glory (Col 3:1–4; Heb 12:1–3)

Questions for Application and Discussion:

- 1.) What are some wrong attitudes and dispositions we must fight against when we come to the Table of the Lord?
- 2.) Read Gen 28:16–17
 - A. Pastor Josh a likened “Jacob’s ladder” as a vision of the Gateway to Heaven to the Lord Supper. How is the Lord’s Supper like a “gateway to heaven?”
 - B. Why was Jacob filled with dread after his dream and why should we come with dread to the Lord’s Table?
 - C. In 1 Jn 4:18, the apostle John says “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” How is the dread with which we come to the Lord’s Table different than the dread John is talking about?
 - D. What did Jacob do after his dream and how does that apply to our approach to the Lord’s Supper (hint: devotion)?
- 3.) Read 1 Cor 10:16, 17.
 - A. Why should we come to the Table of the Lord with delight (hint: participation)?
- 4.) Read Rom 8:32.
 - A. What does Paul mean when he says that with Christ, God graciously gives us all things?
 - B. How does that help in our sadness, sorrow, and fight against sin?
- 5.) What is the difference between an ordinance and a sacrament?
- 6.) In what way is the Lord’s Supper an *ordinance* and in what way is it a *sacrament*?
- 7.) “Participation with Christ in the LS is through the absence or presence of genuine faith.” What does this mean?
- 8.) Read 1 Cor 10:21. “Participation is a renunciation of anything and anyone who stands in the way of your devotion to Christ.” What does that mean?