

## The Lord's Supper

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the Lord's Supper and how some people abuse it.
2. Memorial Day - To remember and honor the men and women who have died in war.
  - a. Called decoration day for a few years
  - b. Arlington Cemetery - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
3. Matt. 26:17-30 - Christ instituted the Lord's Supper the night before he died
4. Purpose - "In remembrance of Me"
5. Our worship to God must be in the right spirit - John 4:24
  - a. Truth = correct things in worship, Bread & Fruit of the vine
  - b. Spirit = correct attitude
6. The church at Corinth had abused the Lord's Supper - 1 Cor. 11:17-34
  - a. We will notice their abuses
  - b. Then we will look at how we can abuse the Lord's Supper

### Discussion

#### I. CORINTH'S ABUSES

- A. 1 Cor. 11:24-26 - Paul's account of establishment of Lord's Supper
  1. Paul received this information
  2. Bread
    - a. Unleavened bread - that which was used in the Passover Feast
    - b. Given thanks - This is my body - symbol or representation
  3. Cup
    - a. Contained fruit of the vine or grape juice
    - b. This is a memorial of the blood

4. "In remembrance of me"

B. 1 Cor. 11:27-29 — "unworthily"

1. Unworthily

- a. This refers to an unworthy attitude or manner not an unworthy person
- b. No person of himself is worthy to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is only through the mercy of God by which we have been forgiven that we have the privilege!
- c. This word "unworthily" refers to the manner or attitude of those who are partaking the Lord's Supper

2. Guilty of the body and blood

- a. To eat the Lord's Supper in a light and frivolous manner is to profane the body and blood of Christ
- b. Those who would willfully show disrespect for the Lord's Supper would be among the number to shout for his crucifixion if they had lived in his day.

3. Examine

- a. We must examine our attitudes
- b. Come to the Lord's Supper for the right reason and purpose
- c. We do it for ourselves not others

C. 1 Cor 11:30-32

1. For this cause

- a. Weak and sickly - - many sleep
- b. Cannot be physical sickness and death - - but spiritual
- c. Spiritual neglect bring spiritual penalties.
- d. Many had grown indifferent and lost interest in Christ.

2. Judge ourselves
  - a. Watch ourselves to see if we talk in the right manner
  - b. Then God will not condemn us
3. Chastened so as not to be condemned

D. 1 Cor 11:33-34

1. Show more fellowship and concern
2. Referring to the love feast's they had probably before the L.S.
3. Their attitudes had caused them to not be able to partake of the Lord's

## **II. ABUSES OF THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY**

A. One Cuppers

1. Some have contended that multiple containers are wrong
2. Matt. 26:27
  - a. "Drink ye all of it"
    - (1) Every one drink of it - all of ye drink of it
    - (2) Or drink all the contents [no]
  - b. This cup contained the fruit of the vine
  - c. Jesus was emphasizing the fruit of the vine and not the container - - every one was to partake
3. Jesus said nothing about the container, whether one or many, large or small
  - a. If the one cup meant one container then some very hard situations would occur

(1) How could all Christians in all parts of the world partake? Time and size would make it impossible!

(2) What about the Jerusalem congregation? It would have required a very large container and a long time.

b. Jesus specified the one cup - fruit of the vine, but not the container

4. Common sense requires many containers

a. Germ's spread by bodily contact of objects like drinking cups

b. Individual containers are not in violation of scriptures and are much more sanitary.

5. One cuppers are weak and sickly Christians [that is if they make it a law - saying multiple containers are sinful.]

a. If they insist that it is wrong to use more than one cup

b. III. - - man at Upper Sinking Church would not partake of the Lord's Supper where they used individual cups, for he thought it was wrong to use more than one cup.

B. Takes Away Sins

1. Some mistakenly feel that partaking of the Lord's Supper takes away sins.

2. A Christian receives forgiveness by repentance, confession and prayer - Acts 8:22

3. We are to examine ourselves and ask forgiveness before we take the L.S.

C. The body and blood become real

1. Jesus used figurative language - Matt. 26:26-28 "This is my body", "This is my blood"
  - a. Bread - unleavened = my body
  - b. Cup - fruit of the vine = my blood
2. It was not to be taken literally
  - a. When he uttered these words he was still in the flesh
  - b. The bread represents the body
  - c. The cup represents the blood
3. False doctrines called:
  - a. Transubstantiation and consubstantiation
  - b. They teach that when prayer is offered the bread becomes the literal body and the cup becomes the literal blood of Christ.
4. They do not change - they are symbols

D. What do you call the Lord's Supper ?

1. 1 Pet. 4:11 - use a Bible name or title or description
2. It is called:
  - a. Lord's Supper - 1 Cor. 11:20
  - b. Breaking of bread - Acts 2:42
  - c. Table of the Lord - 1 Cor. 10:21
  - d. Communion of the body and blood of the Lord - 1 Cor. 10:16

3. It is not called:
  - a. Eucharist - Greek church introduced this - means giving of thanks
  - b. Mass - Catholics introduced this term = means a sacrifice- also use the phrase "Holy communion"
  - c. Sacrament - adopted by the Latin Church
  - d. Not found in the Bible - Why not call it by the terms in the Bible ?
  - e. Never called "wine" in N.T. but called "fruit of the vine"

#### E. Singing during the Lord's Supper

1. Any such accompaniment is a hindrance to our worship
2. Why not sing during the sermon? It would cause confusion
3. Worship at the Lord's Table should be an individual thing
4. Singing and Lord's Supper should not be mixed
5. In Matt. 26:30 they sung an hymn afterward and then went out into the mount of olives
6. 1 Cor. 14:40

#### F. Unworthy to Partake

1. Brethren often refuse to take the Lord's Supper saying I am not worthy !
2. It is a mis-understanding of 1 Cor. 11:27-29
3. If we had to be in sinless perfection, then no person could partake
4. He refers to an unworthy manner:
  - a. Irreverent - Taking it very lightly, jesting, laughing
  - b. Talking writing notes, playing with the babies
  - c. Ill. [See sermon illustrations about abusing the Lord's Supper]

## G. Sunday Night

1. There are times when we are unable to attend Sunday morning.
2. It is still the first day of the week on Sunday night, and it is all right to partake
3. Many have abused this provision:
  - a. Take a trip on Sunday morning, sleep late, go fishing or shopping
  - b. This is an abuse of the Lord's Supper. It is putting God second.
  - c. Some go to the other extreme and stay home Sunday night
4. A few rush in to take the Lord's Supper and then leave. That is an abuse !

## **CONCLUSION**

1. John 4: 24
  - a. Worship is important
  - b. Must be in spirit and truth
2. Lord's Supper is an important part of our worship. Not more but equally important.
3. Partake in Truth:
  - a. Right day - 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week
  - b. Right elements - unleavened bread and fruit of the vine
  - c. As Christians
4. Partake in the right Spirit
  - a. Correct attitude
  - b. In remembrance of Jesus
5. Men choose monuments made of marble, bronze and iron to remember someone. God selected a simple thing like bread and grape juice and remains fresh and enduring through the centuries as a memorial. "This do in remembrance of Me".

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