

Lesson 14 – Church Ordinances – Lord’s Supper (Part 2 – Purpose of the Lord’s Supper)

I. In the symbols of the Lord’s Supper, the bread represents the broken body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. When the believer raises the bread to his lips, he is to remember the broken body of Christ.

1. Jesus was God **tabernacled** in the flesh.
2. In His body, Jesus suffered and was tempted in all manners.
3. Jesus was **tabernacled in flesh** that he might die.

[View / discuss the “tabernacle” attachment]

B. One day we shall be like Him.

II. When the believer raises the cup to his lips to partake in the fruit of the vine, he is to remember the shed blood of Christ. There are four (4) reasons why the blood of Christ had to be shed:

A. “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and the very fact of sin is a reason why His blood was shed (Romans 9:22).

B. God punishes sin and this necessitated the shedding of His blood.

C. God’s law is unchangeable. Justice had to be satisfied and so the blood of Christ was shed.

D. No atonement is possible by a violator of the law – it demanded a perfect substitute: Jesus Christ. [One reason is that Heavenly Father chose Him to be the Savior. He was the Only Begotten Son of God and thus had power over death. Jesus explained: “I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.” (John10:18)]

III. The believer is to partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Christ. He is to remember Christ as his savior, his Friend, his prayer-hearing, and prayer- answering God.

- IV. Participation at the Lord’s Supper should be a time of thanksgiving – “He took the cup and gave thanks.” The believer at the Lord’s Supper should give thanks for their salvation, for their church, for answered prayer, for loved ones, etc.
- V. Observance of the Lord’s Supper is to be a time of reflection.
- A. “Let a man examine himself.”
 - B. The believer is to examine their self as a Christian, as a church member, *and in their relationship to others.*
 - C. It is a time of confessing our sins unto God.
- VI. The believer is to remember when he partakes of the Lord’s Supper that Jesus is coming again (1 Corinthians 11:26). The Christ who gave His body and blood is coming again, and all are to live in anticipation of this “blessed hope.”
- VII. The disciples “went out” after the Lord’s Supper to give their lives in service to Christ. Every believer should leave the table with the same desire.
- VIII. Christ gave the command that all believers were to partake of the Lord’s Supper. When the believer comes to the table he does so in obedience to Christ.

Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the bread in the Lord’s Supper?
2. What was the purpose of the fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper?
3. What does it mean to “let a man examine himself“ before partaking in the Lord’s Supper?
4. Who is to partake in the Lord’s Supper?

Discussions: What are the dangers of neglecting the Lord’s Supper?

Assignment:

- 1 Corinthians 11:25
- Be prepared to define “close communion.”

Lesson 14 – Church Ordinances – Lord’s Supper (Part 2 – Purpose of the Lord’s Supper)

I. In the symbols of the Lord’s Supper, the bread represents the broken body of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁷⁶

A. When the believer raises the bread to his lips, he is to remember the broken body of Christ.

1. Jesus was God **tabernacled** in the flesh.
2. In His body, Jesus suffered and was tempted in all manners.
3. Jesus was **tabernacled in flesh** that he might die.

[View / discuss the “tabernacle” attachment]

B. One day we shall be like Him.

II. When the believer raises the cup to his lips to partake in the fruit of the vine, he is to remember the shed blood of Christ. There are four (4) reasons why the blood of Christ had to be shed:

A. “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and the very fact of sin is a reason why His blood was shed (Romans 9:22).

B. God punishes sin and this necessitated the shedding of His blood.

C. God’s law is unchangeable. Justice had to be satisfied and so the blood of Christ was shed.

D. No atonement is possible by a violator of the law – it demanded a perfect substitute: Jesus Christ. [One reason is that Heavenly Father chose Him to be the Savior. He was the Only Begotten Son of God and thus had power over death. Jesus explained: “I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.” (John 10:18)] **In John 10: ¹⁵As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold [the gentiles]: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. ¹⁷Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

- III.** The believer is to partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Christ. He is to remember Christ as his savior, his Friend, his prayer-hearing, and prayer- answering God.
- IV.** Participation at the Lord’s Supper should be a time of thanksgiving – “He took the cup and gave thanks.” The believer at the Lord’s Supper should give thanks for their salvation, for their church, for answered prayer, for loved ones, etc.
- V.** Observance of the Lord’s Supper is to be a time of reflection.
- A. “Let a man examine himself.”
- B. The believer is to examine their self as a Christian, as a church member, *and in their relationship to others.*
- C. It is a time of confessing our sins unto God.
- VI.** The believer is to remember when he partakes of the Lord’s Supper that Jesus is coming again (1 Corinthians 11:26). The Christ who gave His body and blood is coming again, and all are to live in anticipation of this “blessed hope.”
- VII.** The disciples “went out” after the Lord’s Supper to give their lives in service to Christ. Every believer should leave the table with the same desire.
- VIII.** Christ gave the command that all believers were to partake of the Lord’s Supper. When the believer comes to the table he does so in obedience to Christ.

Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the bread in the Lord’s Supper?
2. What was the purpose of the fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper?
3. What does it mean to “let a man examine himself” before partaking in the Lord’s Supper?
4. Who is to partake in the Lord’s Supper?

Discussions: What are the dangers of neglecting the Lord’s Supper?

Assignment:

- 1 Corinthians 11:25
- Be prepared to define “close communion.” [a communion service in which only members of the same denomination or the same church can participate]

Tabernacled Notes / Comments:

Extracted from: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/god-tabernacled-among-us/>

I. God Made Flesh

When a person makes his home among people, he moves in with them. He identifies with them. The incarnation is the moving in of the eternal Word so that he utterly identifies with us in every way. He took the whole nature of a human being, fully and totally identifying with all that it means for us to be human, including that which psychologists tell us is the most traumatic event of human life—birth.

Truth is amplified in [John 1:14](#), “the Word dwelt among us,” literally, “tabernacled among us,” which means, “he pitched a tent among us.” The Old Testament tabernacle is where God moved in and lived with his people. This tabernacle had no meaning apart from Jesus Christ. Its whole purpose in the wilderness was to point people forward to the true Tabernacle who was to come, **the Son of God**. Read Colossians 2:9 ⁹For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

II. Jesus as Tabernacle

Think about Jesus as the Tabernacle.

- The tabernacle was for use in the wilderness: “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness” ([Matt. 4:1](#)).
- The tabernacle was outwardly humble and unattractive: “He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him” ([Isa. 53:2](#)). The tabernacle was where God met with men: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” ([John 14:6](#)).
- The tabernacle was the center of Israel’s camp, a gathering place for God’s people: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself” ([John 12:32](#)).
- The tabernacle was where sacrifices for the sins of God’s people were made: “But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God” ([Heb. 10:12](#)).
- The tabernacle was a place of worship: “My Lord and My God” ([John 20:28](#)).

- We do not understand the teaching of the Old Testament in all of its fullness **unless we read it through Jesus Christ—his incarnation, life, death, and resurrection. The tabernacle has absolutely no meaning apart from Jesus.**
- Thousands of years before Jesus, God purposed that there be a tabernacle in order that there would be One who would fulfill the meaning of that tabernacle, who would be the true Tabernacle for us. Just as the tabernacle in the wilderness contained and displayed God’s glory ([Ex. 40:34–35](#) ³⁴*Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* ³⁵*And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*), even more do we behold “the glory of God in the face of Christ” ([2 Cor. 4:6](#) ⁶*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*).
- Moses sought to look upon the glory of God, and he was warned by God himself not to look ([Ex. 33:18–20](#) ¹⁸*And he [Moses] said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.* ¹⁹*And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.* ²⁰*And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*); but, we have the privilege of looking upon the face of the Word of God, upon Jesus, by faith through his Word. **Later, one day, by sight we will see the face of Jesus, who will be the full revelation of God and manifestation of his glory.**

III. His Glory Displayed

Glory means *weight* in the literal Hebrew. Many Christians today are into what we could call “Christian lite,” like a “lite” beer. “Give me a little Jesus, just enough to make me happy.” God thunders into our lives in his flesh and says that we behold in him the glory of God, full of grace and truth.

We do not understand the teaching of the Old Testament in all its fullness unless we read it through Jesus Christ—his incarnation, life, death, and resurrection.