

The Lord's Supper – Outline

- 1. What is the Lord's Supper?**
- 2. What is the symbolism of the Lords Supper?**
- 3. Who should observe the Lord's Supper?**
- 4. How do we observe the Lord's Supper?**
- 5. What does the Bible say about the Roman Catholic "Mass?"**

The Lord's Supper

Here is a subject which requires a careful study of the Word of God. Like baptism, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is generally misunderstood and the religious world has many substitutes.

The only references to the Lord's Supper in the New Testament are accounts in:

- **Matthew 26:17-30** ¹⁷ Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? ¹⁸ And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. ²⁰ Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. ²¹ And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. ²² And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? ²³ And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. ²⁴ The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. ²⁵ Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸ For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. ³⁰ And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

- **Mark 14:12-26** ¹² And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover? ¹³ And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. ¹⁴ And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? ¹⁵ And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us. ¹⁶ And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. ¹⁷ And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. ¹⁹ And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? ²⁰ And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. ²¹ The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born. ²² And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. ²³ And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. ²⁵ Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. ²⁶ And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- **Luke 22:7-20** ⁷ Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. ⁸ And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. ⁹ And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? ¹⁰ And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. ¹¹ And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the

passover with my disciples? ¹² And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. ¹³ And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. ¹⁴ And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: ¹⁶ For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸ For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ¹⁹ And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰ Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

- **From Paul (where he rebukes the church there for serious disorder at the Lord's table):**
 - **I Corinthians 10:14-22 (Starting from verse 12 since it is so cool a verse)** ¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ¹⁴ Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. ¹⁸ Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? ¹⁹ What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? ²⁰ But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. ²¹ **Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot**

- be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. ²² Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?
- **11:17-34** ¹⁷ Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies [*opinion or doctrine at variance with the orthodox or accepted doctrine, esp. of a church or religious system*] among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. ²² What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? what shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. ²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. ²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. ³³ Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. ³⁴ And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

Prior to completing this study, carefully read each of the passages above.

References about the Lord's Supper often cited from the book of Acts:

- Acts 2:46 ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- Acts 20:7-11 ⁷ And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. ⁸ And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. ⁹ And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. ¹¹ When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

These references do not refer to the Lord's Supper since they do not mention the "cup" and because, in the second instance, the breaking of bread was done twice in one night. These passages actually refer to a fellowship type meal – "feasts of charity" [Jude 12a]

1. What is the Lord's Supper? (AN ORDINANCE)

A. Notice the correct terminology... There are only three Bible terms

- i. **COMMUNION** - I Corinthians 10:16 ¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? [*communion: a group of persons having a common religious faith; a religious denomination, association, fellowship, interchange or sharing of thoughts or emotions; intimate communication, the act of sharing, or holding in common; participation.*]

- ii. **The Lord's Table** – I Corinthians 10:21 ²¹ Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the **Lord's table**, and of the table of devils.

- iii. **The Lord's Supper** – I Corinthians 11:20 ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the **Lord's supper**.

B. Compare:

- i. 1 Corinthians 11:2 ² Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.
- ii. 1 Corinthians 11:23 ²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

It is an **ORDINANCE** *[an authoritative rule or law; a decree or command]* of the church!

C. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we:

- i. Do it in remembrance of Christ – I Corinthians 11:24-25 ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.
- ii. Do shew the Lord's death – I Corinthians 11:26 ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show *[to cause or allow to be seen; exhibit; display]* the Lord's death till he come.

From the scriptures we conclude the Lord's Supper is a:

symbol, **sacrament** *[a visible sign of an inward grace]*, **memorial**, **means of grace**

D. Is the observance of the Lords Supper a COMMAND or is it a CHOICE?

See I Corinthians 11:24-25 ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do** in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

IT IS A COMMAND. Jesus said to do it.

2. What is the symbolism of the Lords Supper?**A. The elements of The Supper**

i. Unleavened bread Matthew 26:17 ¹⁷ Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

ii. The Fruit of the Vine Matthew 26:29 ²⁹ But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, **I Corinthians uses the term “the cup”**

No where does the Bible refer to “wine” in connection with the Lord’s Supper. Alcoholic (fermented) wine is a result of the action of yeast (leaven).

In the Bible, leaven is a symbol of sin (I Corinthians 5:6,7 ⁶ Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? ⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Thus alcoholic wine and leavened bread would be invalid symbols of the spotless Son of God.

- B. The symbolism of the bread - The bread pictures the **Broken Body** of the Lord Jesus Christ, I Corinthians 11:24** ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you:
- C. The symbolism of the cup – Grape juice pictures the **Shed Blood** of the Lord Jesus Christ, I Corinthians 11:25** ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

This reminds us that without the shedding of blood, there could be no remission of sins:

- Hebrews 9:22 ²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
- I Peter 1:18,19 ¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

D. The purpose of the Lord's Supper

Like the ordinance of Baptism, The Lord's Supper is a **picture** of Jesus Christ.

- i. Baptism is a symbolic picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. When we observe the Lord's Supper, we set forth a beautiful symbol of the **Lord's Death** until He comes. I Corinthians 11:26 ²⁶ *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

3. Who should observe the Lord's Supper?

- A. According to Matthew 26:20 [²⁰ Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.], when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (during a pre-Passover meal), who were present? **The twelve.**
- i. A careful reading of Mark 14:16-17 [¹⁶ And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. ¹⁷ And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.] indicates there were more disciples than just these present with the Lord.
- ii. It is evident from John 13:30 [³⁰ He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.] (THEN Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper) that Judas Iscariot left the supper to betray Jesus BEFORE the Lord instituted the Lord's Supper.
- B. According to I Corinthians 12:28 [²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.] this group of people constituted the **CHURCH.**
- C. Compare the verse below. The Lord's Supper was instituted in the church (an organized assembly of baptized believers).
- i. Matthew 26:30 ³⁰ And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- ii. Hebrews 2:12 ¹² Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

- D. Read I Corinthians 11:17-21. Here the Apostle Paul is rebuking the church at Corinth for turning the simple memorial Supper into a drunken orgy-type feast. However, not the following:
- i. Verse 17 - ¹⁷ Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that **ye come together** not for the better, but for the worse.
 - ii. Verse 18 - ¹⁸ For first of all, when **ye come together in the church**, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.
 - iii. Verse 20 - ²⁰ **When ye come together therefore into one place**, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

You come together as a Church to worship God but NOT for the primary purpose of having the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an act of remembrance.

- E. According to I Corinthians 1:2a ² Unto the **church of God** which is **at Corinth**, (Thus the command to keep the ordinance has been given to the Lord's churches.)
- F. Conclusion: The Lord's Supper is a CHURCH ORDINANCE. Given the Lord's churches to observe. Remember the requirements for membership in a New Testament Baptist church: **believer and baptized**.

When our church comes together to observe the Lord's Supper, only members of our Church who are in good standing may properly partake. We do not open the Supper to Christians in general, or even to members of other Baptist churches. Many people find this a hard doctrine (especially in light of contemporary trends), but remember it is the Lord's Supper, not man's, and HE issues the invitation.

Many “church’s” open the Lord’s Supper to “all who love the Lord in sincerity and truth.” This sounds good but it opens up the real possibility of allowing Christians holding all manner of beliefs to join together. I Corinthians 11:18-19 [¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.] forbids the observance of the Supper by any church when: **divisions and heresies** are present

4. How do we observe the Lord’s Supper?

- A. How Often? The Bible does not prescribe a definite time to observe the Lord’s Supper. I Corinthians 11:26 simple states ²⁶ For **as often as** ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.
- i. Some churches observe the Supper annually, around the time of the Jewish Passover when the Lord was crucified.
 - ii. Some churches chose to observe the Lord’s Supper more frequently.
- B. According to I Corinthians 11:28 ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. The observance of the Lord’s Supper should be preceded by a solemn, personal self-examination.

Eating the Lord’s Supper unworthily is dangerous! ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation [serve judgment – even physical death] to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

- C. When observing the Lord’s Supper, the elements are to be distributed to the members, then all eat (or drink) together. This is because I Corinthians 11:33 gives the instruction to TARRY one for another. ³³ Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.
- D. Following the observance of the Lord’s Supper, the meeting closes with the singing of a hymn. Matthew 26:30

5. What does the Bible say about the Roman Catholic “Mass?”**A. What are the Roman Catholics taught?**

- i. That the “mass” is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Who is really present on the altar. He is offered to God for the living and dead by the priest.
- ii. That upon the words of consecration by the priest, “Hos est corpus meum,” the wafer and alcoholic wine literally change into the real flesh and blood of Christ (transubstantiation).
- iii. That the observance of the mass is a means of grace (part of salvation) whereby the person actually eats the real flesh of Jesus. That it is a mortal sin not to receive “Holy Communion” at Easter.

B. When did this teaching originate?

- i. The doctrine of transubstantiation can be traced to the 9th century writings of Paschasius Radburtus. It was declared a doctrine by Pope Innocent III in 1215 AD at the Council of Lateran IV.
- ii. It is based upon a literal interpretation of Matthew 26: 26-28 and John 6:53-58
 - a. Matthew 26:26-28 ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸ For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - b. John 6:53-58 ⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and

drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. ⁵⁸ This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

C. What does the Bible have to say?

- i. Eating blood is forbidden by the LAW. Leviticus 17:10 ¹⁰ And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. Validated by Matthew 5:17 ¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

- ii. Idolatry is forbidden
 - a. I John 5:21 ²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

 - b. Exodus 20:4-5 ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

- iii. Jesus spoke symbolically in Matthew 26 because he was literally present. “This is my body” means “this represents My body!” A literal interpretation of this passage would also require a **literal** interpretation of say Matthew 16:23 ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Oh, oh! Roman Catholics are taught that Peter was the first POPE!

- iv. Jesus presents himself metaphorically as the “Living Bread” as explained in John 6:51:

John 6:51 ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

So, when Jesus states the following:

John 6:53-58 ⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. ⁵⁸ This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

Jesus finally warns that the things He speaks of are **SPIRITUAL** not **PHYSICAL** in nature:

John 6:63 ⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life

- v. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ was sufficient **once and for all!** The continual, repetitious “sacrifice” by Roman Catholic priests of their ‘Christ’ is a denial of the finished work of Christ. See:
 - a. John 19:30 ³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
 - b. Hebrews 10:10-12 ¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- vi. How can a priest (a creature) make Christ (the Creator)? See John 1:3 ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made..

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