

Sacraments:

The Lord's Supper



Sacraments – Last Supper

1. As we study the mystery of the Lord's Supper, we need to bear in mind who it was that gave us this sacrament. **Who instituted the Lord's Supper?**

The Bible Says:

1 Corinthians 11	23	For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,
Luke 22	19	And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

From this we Learn:

- (A) Our Lord Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper
- (B) He is the ever-truthful and almighty God; therefore, we can rely on everything He says and promises. (Other names for this sacrament are Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Lord's Table, the Breaking of Bread, and the Eucharist.)

2. It was Passover time. Having eaten of the lamb-whose death foreshadowed His own on the morrow for the sins of the world-what did Jesus take and give to His disciples?

The Bible Says:

Luke 22:19	19	And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them
Matthew 26	27	Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.
	28	This is my blood of the ^[Some manuscripts the new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

From this we Learn: Jesus gave His disciples:

- (A) **Bread**-unleavened because of the Passover, broken for distribution.
 - (B) **Wine** - "the fruit of the vine"
- Matthew 26:29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

We are under the New Covenant, so we use grape juice and leavened bread.

Sacraments – Last Supper

3. And what did Jesus say?

The Bible Says:

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| Luke 22 | 19 | And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them – This is my Body |
| Matthew 26 | 27 | Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. |
| | 28 | This is my blood of the <small>[Some manuscripts the new]</small> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. This is my Blood |

From this we Learn:

- (A) With the bread Jesus gives us His body; and
- (B) With the wine He gives us His blood.

4. Does this mean that Jesus actually gives us His body and blood in the Lord's Supper?

The Bible Says:

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| Luke 22 | 19 | (Jesus said): And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them – This is my Body |
| Luke 22 | 20 | Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. |
| 1 Corinthians. 10 | 16 | Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? |

From this we Learn: We firmly believe that we receive the body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament

- (A) Because Jesus says, "This is My body" - the same body "which is given for you" into death, and "This is My blood" - the same blood "which is shed for you" on the cross.
- (B) Because the bible tells us that when we eat and drink the bread and wine we share in the very body and blood of Christ.

(The real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper is a miracle/mystery. We can't understand it. We can't explain it. But, because it is a fact clearly revealed in the Word of God, we believe it with all our heart.)

Sacraments – Last Supper

5. What about the bread and the wine in the Lord's Supper - are these, perhaps, changed into the body and blood of Christ?

The Bible Says:

1 Cor. 11 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

From this we Learn: The bread remains bread, and the wine remains wine; but with the bread and the wine we receive the body and blood of Christ.

(The bread and wine are received in a natural way, Christ's body and blood in a supernatural way - a manner beyond our comprehension.)"
the same blood "which is shed for you" on the cross.

6. For what use did Christ give us His body and blood with the bread and the wine?

The Bible Says:

Matthew 26 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."
Matthew 26 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

From this we Learn: Christ give us His body and blood with the bread and the wine for one use: to eat and drink.

(Christ says: "Eat and drink" - not only: "Eat," There must be no withholding of the cup from the laity.-

Christ says: "Eat and drink" - not: "Adore," as in the adoration of the host. –

Christ says: "Eat and drink"--: "Re-enact My sacrifice on Calvary in an unbloody manner for the sins of the living and of the dead," as in the mass.

Hebrews 10:14) For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:18) And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

(The bread and wine are received in a natural way, Christ's body and blood in a supernatural way - a manner beyond our comprehension.)"
the same blood "which is shed for you" on the cross.

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7. As said before, the Lord's Supper is a miracle/mystery-but it is more. It is a miracle of love. **What are the blessings of this sacrament?**

The Bible Says:

- 2 Corinthians. 5 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.
- 2 Corinthians. 5 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: [Or Christ, that person is a new creation] The old has gone, the new is here!.

From this we Learn: In the Lord's Supper, Christ deals with the individual-with me. He tells me that my sins are all forgiven-and then He gives me, as the strongest possible proof of my forgiveness, the very body and blood with which He earned my forgiveness. All this-(Christ says: "Eat and drink" - not only: "Eat," There must be no withholding of the cup from the laity.- Christ says: "Eat and drink" - not: "Adore," as in the adoration of the host.

Hebrews 10:14) For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 10:18) And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

- (A) Strengthens my faith in Him as my precious Savior; and
- (B) Gives me renewed incentive and power to live my life for Him and my fellowman.

Sacraments – Last Supper

8. The blessings are placed into the Lord's Supper by the Word: "Given for you ... shed for you." They are received only by faith in the Word-by believing that Christ, my Savior, died for my sins. **What should I therefore do before going to Holy Communion?**

The Bible Says:

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| 1 Corinthians 11 | 28 | Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup |
| | 29 | For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. |
| 2 Corinthians 13 | 05 | Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? |

From this we Learn: Three questions are suggested for our self-examination:

- (1) Am I sorry for my sins?
- (2) Do I believe that Christ died for my sins, and that in the Lord's Supper, He gives me His body and blood for the assurance of the forgiveness of my sins?
- (3) Do I intend to dedicate my life ever more to Christ and to His service?

If we feel we are too sinful to receive this meal, then we should receive it for the forgiveness of our sins. At the Last Supper both Judas and Peter received the meal. (one betrayed Jesus that night and the other denied Him.) If we think we are righteous and perfect and can take the meal, then we are not ready. Only one person would ever be righteous enough to receive the Lord's Supper, and we crucified Him.

Sacraments – Last Supper

9. Why should I receive the Lord's Supper often?

The Bible Says:

Luke 22:19	19	Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup
Acts 2:42 They	42	Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?
Matthew 26	27	
Matthew 26	28	
Matt, 11	28	
1 Cor. 11	24	
	25	
	26	

From this we Learn: I should receive the Lord's Supper often

- (A) Because this is the will of my Lord. He wants me to come to His Table again and again, and each time I am to call to loving remembrance how He suffered and died for me and my sins.
 - (B) Because of the promised blessings, especially the forgiveness of my sins -which includes every other blessing.
 - (C) Because I am forever and deeply in need of the forgiveness, peace, joy, and strength which become mine thorough the Sacrament.
 - (D) Because every time I go to Communion, I preach a sermon without words proclaiming my faith in the Savior who died for me, and recommending Him to others. This I and my fellow believers the world over is to "keep on doing" until Christ comes in glory. How often should I commune? After what we have learned about the Sacrament, shouldn't we rather ask: How often may I commune? On Calvary, my Savior "gave Himself for me."
- Gal. 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Now, in His holy Supper, He gives Himself to me - gives Himself so assuredly and lovingly that I can't help exclaiming with the Bride in the Song of Songs: "My Beloved is mine, and I am His." 2:16. Surely, I should be eager to commune often "that I may know Him" ever more intimately as the Bridegroom of my soul.**

Luke 22:14-22 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

**IT IS NOT ABOUT RELIGION,
BUT IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP!**