

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Sec 7. “Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements, in this sacrament, do then also, inwardly by faith, really & indeed, yet not carnally & corporally but spiritually, receive, & feed upon, Christ crucified, & all benefits of His death: ...”

A. The 1st ½ of sec 7 explains that we don't hold to a purely memorial view of the Lord's Supper.

1. Yes, when Jesus said, “**do this in remembrance of Me,**”¹ we acknowledge that the sacrament has remembrance as a key part of it; however, there is more to the sacrament than merely recalling what Christ did for us on the cross.
2. As we just read, there is a true spiritual presence & nourishment whereby we “spiritually, receive, & feed upon, Christ crucified, & all benefits of His death.”
 - a. We do that in a vital, spiritual way yet not “carnally & corporally.”
 - 1) “carnally” means fleshly.
 - 2) “corporally” means bodily as in corporal or bodily punishment (chastisement).
 - b. We spiritually feed upon Christ by faith yet not in a fleshly or bodily fashion.

B. When we read above about “all the benefits of His [Christ's] death,” WSC 32 explains what those benefits are:

Q. 32 *What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?*

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption & sanctification, & the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

The 2nd ½ of Sec 7 speaks against the Lutheran doctrine of consubstantiation yet with an explanation of what we believe: “... the body & blood of Christ being then, not corporally or carnally, in, with, or under the bread & wine; [consubstantiation] yet, as really, but spiritually, present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.”

- Sec 7 closes by saying just as you can smell & taste the bread & wine, so you can rest assured that there is a spiritual presence of Jesus with us during the Lord's Supper.

sec 8. “Although ignorant & wicked men receive the outward elements in this sacrament; yet, they receive not the thing signified thereby; but, by their unworthy coming thereunto, are guilty of the body & blood of the Lord, to their own damnation. Wherefore, all ignorant & ungodly persons, as they are unfit to enjoy communion with Him, so are they unworthy of the Lord's table; & cannot, without great sin against Christ, while they remain such, partake of these holy mysteries, or be admitted thereunto.” → Look again at 1 Cor 11:27-32.

A. Whose who know the gospel, believe the gospel, & endeavor to walk in a repentance do actually receive by faith “the thing signified” in the sacrament, namely “all the benefits of His death” (sec 7).

¹ Lu 22:19

- B. There are a few ways we can define those who are “ignorant” of the gospel:
1. Those who currently believe in false doctrine should not partake.
 2. A person who cannot articulate or explain what the gospel in his or her own words or with the use of the Bible should not partake either.
 3. Very young children who have not yet grasped the gospel are also be prohibited.
 - a. Some teach “paedocommunion” which means that even babies can take of communion because they are covenant members through baptism.
 - b. No one yet can give a convincing argument how a baby who cannot yet talk, walk, or control his or her bowel & bladder has the ability to do self-examination according to **1 Cor 11**.
 - 1) The OPC rightly makes a distinction between communicant and non-communicant members.
 - 2) Covenant youth must give a profession of faith before the Session & take membership vows before God & the congregation as witnesses so that they can become communicant members.
 4. Likewise, adults who have completed a new members’ class must give a profession of faith before the Session & take membership vows before God & the congregation as witnesses so that they can become communicant members.
- C. Those who are described in sec 8 as “wicked men” or “ungodly persons” lack repentance.
1. Persons currently involved in sexually infidelity should not partake.
 - a. Growing up in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) we knew of many who were actively participating in fornication yet partook of the Lord’s Supper.
 - b. A monsignor said that **1 Cor 11** was taught to RC youth at their CCD or “Confraternity of Christian Doctrine” classes. Even if it was taught then, is that enough?
 - c. A person who has fallen into sexual temptation yet turned away from that sin should be allowed to take the bread & wine.
 2. Someone currently participating in drunkenness or illegal drug use should not partake.
 3. A person actively involved in criminal activity should not partake.
 4. Someone who refuses to repent of any sin (lying, slander, stealing, etc) yet continues directly or “headlong” in such sin should not partake.
 5. Those refusing to heed the process of **Mat 18**, even refusing to listen to church leadership may be suspended from the Lord’s Supper or even excommunicated.
 6. Directory for Worship- top of p153.