

What Is the Lord's Supper?

February 21, 2021

I Corinthians 11:17-26

“The Lord's supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body.” *Westminster Larger Catechism*, Question 168

The Lord's Supper signifies:

1. The Fact of Christ's Death: A Fact of History

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death” (I Corinthians 11:26).

2. The Design of Christ's Death: A Sin-offering and atonement

“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:27, 28).

3. The Significance of Christ's Death: It's memorial is perpetual

“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. 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” (I Corinthians 11:24, 25).

4. The Unity of Christ's Body: One Spiritual Family, each partaking of Christ

“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. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:26-28).

5. The Certainty of Christ's Return: Ye do shew the Lord's death till He come

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come” (I Corinthians 11:26).

1083 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. 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: 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.

Matthew 26:26-28. 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. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Mark 14:22-24. 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. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Luke 22:19-20. 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. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

I. The Setting:

Jesus observing Passover, His 33rd

Remembering Egyptian bondage and deliverance via death of the lamb & firstborn

Special urgency in this one, as Christ knows it is the fulfillment of all prior, the reality of which they were pictures

Seated with 12 disciples, knowing the one who is the traitor

Fulfilling Passover, which is thus needed no more, Christ institutes His supper, by which his death, sinless broken body and bloodshed are to be remembered perpetually

2. Jesus takes the bread

Unleavened bread, symbolic of his sinless body

One loaf, which He breaks, symbolic of one body broken

Each partaking of that bread, symbolic of each partaking of the One Bread/Body, by which each and all enter into the relationship of a single body with many parts