

I. The Lord's Supper represents God's grace

- A. It signs – illustrates – realities beyond the physical experience of sharing the bread and cup.
- B. We are one with Christ (John 6:55)
- C. We are one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
- D. The cross of Jesus Christ is a blessing to us (we eat his body and drink his blood)
- E. Jesus invites to the wedding feast of the Lamb (Matthew 22:1-14)
- F. Jesus invites us to a feast where we may become wiser (Proverbs 9:1-6)
- G. Jesus is the bread of life, the true manna from heaven (John 6:32-59, esp. v. 55)

II. The Lord's Supper seals God's grace

- A. It confirms God's grace to us (Galatians 3:2; Romans 3:20-24; 8:1-4)
- B. God forgives our sins (1 John 1:9)
- C. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us (John 17:17,19; Romans 6:19,22; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:14; Matthew 25:23; 1 John 3:2)
- D. The Lord will help us through suffering, raise our bodies, and let us live forever (Hebrews 4:16; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 7:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20,50-57; Mark 1:15)
- E. God hears our prayers, and is delighted with our worship, because Jesus is our priest (Romans 8:15; Hebrews 4:14-16)
- F. The Gospel will be heard worldwide (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 17:30-31)
- G. All things work together for good for those that love God (Romans 8:28)
- H. Why does it seal God's covenant of grace? We put before God's eyes our only plea.
- I. Covenant sealed with a meal (Exodus 24:3-11)

III. The Lord's Supper applies God's grace

- A. It is an important means by which God gives us grace. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
- B. Convicts of sin, inspires repentance, and helps put sin to death
- C. Pronounces God's forgiveness
- D. Grants us more faith (Mark 9:24)
- E. Strengthens us for our journey from slavery to freedom (Exodus 12:11)
- F. Binds us together (1 Corinthians 11:29)
- G. When? How?

IV. Come to the Lord's Table

- A. It's good to eat at the Lord's Table
- B. You need this meal

More from our confession and catechisms:

The Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 27, 29
The Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 88, 91-93, 96-97
The Westminster Larger Catechism, questions 154, 161-163, 168-177

Further reading:

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 1559. Trans. Ford Lewis Battles. Ed. John T. McNeill. Library of Christian Classics. 20, 21. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960. (especially Book Four, chapters XIV, XVII)

Gamble, Richard C., ed. *Calvin's Ecclesiology: Sacraments and Deacons. Articles on Calvin and Calvinism*. 10. New York & London: Garland, 1992.

Hesselink, John I. *Calvin's First Catechism: A Commentary (Featuring Ford Lewis Battles's translation of the 1538 Catechism)*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Leithart, Peter J. *Blessed are the Hungry: Meditations on the Lord's Supper*. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2000.

----- "What's Wrong with Transubstantiation? An Evaluation of Theological Models."
Westminster Theological Journal 53 (Fall 1991): 295-324.

Wallace, Ronald S. *Calvin's Doctrine of Word and Sacrament*. 1953. Tyler, Texas: Geneva Divinity School Press, 1982.

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. "Not Presence but Action: Calvin on Sacraments." *Perspectives* 9 (March 1994): 16-22.