

# Our Worship and the Lord's Supper

## Introduction

1. When we attend a funeral service it takes physical and mental preparation to be ready for the funeral service.
2. When we attend a wedding ceremony, it takes physical and mental preparation to be ready for the wedding ceremony.
3. Likewise, when we attend a service for the Lord, it takes physical and mental preparation to be ready for the worship service.
  - A. It is not a time to chat, cut up, and visit socially with your friends.
  - B. Meditation is the order of the hour.
4. When we attend there are five acts of worship that we engage in to our God.
  - A. Singing
  - B. Praying
  - C. Partaking of the Lord's Supper
  - D. Giving
  - E. Listening to teaching from God's Word, the Bible.
5. This morning I want to discuss the act of partaking of the Lord's Supper.
6. Each Christian should have a complete understanding of the significance of the Lord's Supper and to keep it properly.
  - ✓ **Most of us do, but we need to be reminded occasionally**
  - A. Proper observance yields spiritual blessings.
  - B. Improper observance will result in great condemnation.

## Origin of Observance

1. The Lord's Supper was instituted on the night Jesus was betrayed by Judas.  
**Matthew 26:26-29**  
(Others: Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:19-20)
  - A. For generations this Passover feast had commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian captivity.  
(Exod 12:21-27)
2. Christ gave it a NEW meaning when celebrating the Passover with His disciples.

## Emblems of Observance

### 1. Unleaven Bread:

- A. Bread baked from unfermented dough (dough made without yeast)
- B. Passover was also called the “Feast of Unleavened Bread”.  
**Matthew 26:17**
  - 1) The Lord originally commanded the Jews to use such bread because they were to eat the Passover in haste (Deut 16:1-3).
  - 2) Later, leaven came to symbolize the evil influence of sin that must be purged away.

Matthew 16:6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the **leaven of the Pharisees** and the Sadducees."

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore **purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, **not with old leaven**, nor with the leaven of **malice** and **wickedness**, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- C. The unleavened bread that we partake today now represents the broken body of our sinless savior.

## 2. Fruit of the Vine:

**A. The fruit of the vine that we partake of is grape juice. There are several reasons why grape juice is used and some of these are:**

**1) The Greek word for "Vine" is "ampelos"**

**a. "Ampelos" is the same word used in the following contexts of scripture:**

Matthew 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this **fruit of the vine** from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

James 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a **grapevine** bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

Revelation 14:18 ".....Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the **clusters** of the vine of the earth, for her **grapes** are fully ripe."

**b. We can see from these passages that which is of the vine is grapes.**

**2) In the Bible, the verses of scripture that attaches a fruit to a vine, it is the fruit of grapes that are mentioned.**

**3) Many areas around Palestine was known for its vast amount of grapes. Wine was produced from the many grapes in the area.**

- B. The fruit of the vine symbolizes Christ's blood that was shed for us for the remission of sins.**
- 1) In the Old Testament, the blood of animals was shed in the place of the offender.**
    - a. Blood of animals could not completely remove the stain of sin and a better, more perfect sacrifice was needed. JESUS!**
- C. The Lord's Supper celebrates the fact that we now have permanent forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ.**  
(Revelation 1:5)

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace

## Day of Observance

1. Observed on the first day of the week.
  - 1) Christ was raised on the first day.
  - 2) The early church assembled on the first day.
  - 3) Disciples came together to “break bread” on the first day.

Acts 2:42 And they continued **steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the **breaking of bread**, and in prayers.

Acts 20:7 Now on the **first day of the week**, when the **disciples came together to break bread**...

## Frequency of Observance

1. The New Testament church observed the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7). WHICH FIRST DAY?
  - A. How many week's are there?
  - B. How many first day of the week's are there?
2. In the Old Testament they were told to keep the Sabbath day Holy. Which One?
  - A. As often as there was a Sabbath day, they were to keep it holy.
3. New Testament Christians met every first day of the week.  
**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**
  - A. Observing communion monthly, quarterly, or yearly is without Bible Authority.

## Purpose of Observance

### 1. **A Memorial**

- A. Men erect memorials: Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, USS Arizona, Vietnam Memorial Wall, etc. (Those that have fallen in battle).
- B. Lord's Supper is a memorial that reminds us of the death of Jesus Christ.  
**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**
  - 1) Without the death on the cross ---- no forgiveness of sins.
  - 2) Without the resurrection ---- no hope.
    - a. **The Lord's Supper is the world's greatest memorial to the world's greatest event for mankind.**
- C. The one who forgets the death of Christ will also forget to live for Him!

### 2. **A Communion**

- A. It is an expression of our union with Christ and with one another.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 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? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

- B. Communion means partnership, joint participation, a sharing together, or fellowship.
  - 1) Observing the Lord's Supper is an **outward expression of our unity as Christians**. We share in the benefits of our Lord's sacrifice.

**3. A Proclamation**

- A. Every Christian preaches a sermon by partaking of the Lord's Supper.**
- B. Through faithful observance, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26 For **as often** as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim** the Lord's death till He comes.

- C. By **participating** in this event, we **publicly confess** our faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. We do this with great joy!**
- D. However, our actions may speak loudly in a negative way:**
  - 1) Whispering, giggling, writing notes, clipping nails, playing, day dreaming.**
  - 2) These things indicate that something is wrong with our attitude.**
  - 3) An improper attitude will make one spiritually weak and sick.**  
**1 Corinthians 11:27-30**
    - a. "Worthy" = Partake in a way that is pleasing to God.**
- E. The Lord's Supper is a most solemn observance. It must be observed with reverence and great care in remembrance of the one who gave ALL for us.**

## Conclusion

1. In observing the Lord's Supper each Christian must look **backwards** and remember the death of Christ.
2. We must look **inward** and examine our self.
3. We look **outward** to those lost in sin and proclaim our faith in the Lord's sacrifice.
4. We look **forward** in anticipation of His glorious return.
5. If properly observed, the Lord's Supper will increase our faith, love, zeal, hope, and joy.
6. **The Lord's Supper is observed in God's kingdom by His citizens, His children.**
  - A. Are you a child of God today?

