

The Covenantal Life: Being the Church
Week 5 - Covenant Signs: The Lord's Supper
Luke 22:14-20

- The Lord's Supper is the ongoing sign of New Covenant renewal
 - Like baptism, it is for those who are evidently members of the NC (Acts 2:42)
 - Those who partook of the supper were known members of the local church (1 Cor. 11:17-22)
- Lord's Supper is the fulfillment of all the Old Covenant feasts, especially Passover
 - Each feast was a remembrance of God's merciful deliverances - served as covenant renewal
 - The supper is a reminder of the one great and final deliverance
 - One NC feast fulfills what was pictured in all the OC feasts
- As a NC sign it is a regular reminder of promised blessings and threatened curses
 - Matt. 26:26-28, cf Jn. 6:53-56 - eating the bread and drinking the wine signify eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood - signify the reality of possessing eternal life
 - 1 Cor. 11:26 - signifies the suffering and death of Christ and all it accomplished
 - His life was given "for the forgiveness of sins" - the supper signifies His death, the means by which our sins are forgiven
 - Heb. 10:1-4, 12-14 - reminds us of our need for salvation, but unlike OC sacrifices, it is not limited to a reminder of sins, but rather done "in remembrance" of Christ - reminder that are sins are fully forgiven, once and for all
 - Reminds us of the fact that our covenant Head and Savior took on flesh
 - In the NC, we have a head who is fully man, perfectly righteous, and alive forever
 - The God-man was broken for our sins, suffered our judgment, and came through it vindicated in righteousness
 - 1 Cor. 10:16 - signifies our union with Christ
 - When we partake, we have fellowship with Him in His death, sharing in His suffering (Ph. 3:10)
 - Picture of the fact that all in Christ must share in His suffering (Rom. 8:17, Col. 1:24, 2 Tim: 3:12)
 - 1 Cor. 10:17 - signifies our union with other Christians
 - The supper is corporate by nature
 - One sacrifice for sins, and all who partake are united together under one Savior
 - Lk. 22:18, 1 Cor. 11:26 - looks forward to the covenant blessing of perfect union with Christ and all believers in the new creation

- 1 Cor. 11:23-32 - also carries a warning of covenant curses on those who partake wrongly
 - Those who partake in unrepentance and without understanding and believing the gospel are “guilty concerning the body and blood” - hold Christ’s sacrifice in contempt by knowingly rejecting it
 - Flippant disregard for Christ’s sacrifice by partaking carelessly
 - As a covenant sign, the supper also serves as an oath - a pledge to live as one fully in Christ
 - If we prove ourselves to have sworn this falsely, we bring covenant curses on ourselves (cf Mal. 2:16, Eph. 5:29)
 - These curses are not only spiritual - can be physical and temporal
- This universal sign is administered in local churches
 - We are professing union with the individuals we share the supper with - we are one body, members of one another (1 Cor. 10:17-18)
 - Paul’s specific concern is that the manner in which the Corinthians are having the supper is not in keeping with the reality of the unity they profess (1 Cor. 11:18)
 - Partaking hypocritically by professing unity and manifesting division
 - We should know the fellow members with whom we are professing union, be reasonably confident that they are repentant Christians who do not partake in the “cup of demons”
 - If we are out of fellowship with a fellow member, we must address this before sharing the supper with them (Matt. 5:23-24)
 - When examining ourselves, we must include examining sins of omission toward the body
 - Easy to become self-righteous in personal piety while neglecting the people we are covenantally united to
 - The person who partakes wrongly, swears falsely, is responsible before God
 - Yet the corporate body may share some responsibility and may suffer discipline
 - We have a duty to encourage, exhort, correct, rebuke because we are covenantally united as one body, and we will be held accountable for this