

# REVISITING THE LORD'S TABLE

## RECONSIDERING WHERE YOU ARE SEATED

*"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils:  
ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."*

~ 1 Corinthians 10:21

### 1. Table History

- a. Commonly seen in most churches as a piece of furniture too small to eat at.
- b. The doctrine of the Lord's Table is as old as it has been controversial – 1 Cor 10:21
  - i. Men have died over this practice (Foxe's Book, John Rogers, Zwingli?)
  - ii. Protestant unity in Europe likely failed over this doctrine (Luther v. Zwingli)
  - iii. Is it Real presence, trans-, con-, spiritual, symbolic, memorial, celebration
  - iv. Seen as important also for atonement, sins, fellowship, excommunication
- c. Excommunicate ~*def.* Cut off communion, exclude from participation (in sacraments)
- d. After all this, Paul is the main justification for churches to do this often!
- e. It is time to revisit the Lord's Table with the Bible rightly divided to see what we learn.

### 2. Table Talk

- a. i.e. Lord's Supper, Eucharist, Mass, sacred mystery, sacrament of the altar, communion
- b. First, our salvation not dependent on what we eat – Col 2:16, 1 Cor 8:8, Rom 14:17
- c. Second, we are seated in heavenly places in Christ and his kingdom - Eph 2:6, Col 1:13
- d. Why is there a table? To partake of what is provided (by the Lord) Col 1:12, Eph 3:6
- e. How to get a seat at a table? Called, invited (Gospel of salvation – 2 Tim 1:9, Col 3:15)
- f. Where is a table? In a house. (House of the Lord → 1Tim 3:16, 1Cor 3:16, 2Cor 13:14)
- g. A table in the Lord's earthly kingdom (Luke 22:20), but we partake of His table now.

### 3. What's on the Table

- a. What people eat is important to religion – Affair of the Sausages (1522), anyone?
- b. P. Schaff – Anything but wine is "heretical practice" acc. to 'History of the Church'.
- c. What is on the Lord's table? 1 Cor 10:16-17 - The blood and body of Christ.
  - i. It is not a literal table! Christ died on a cross (not on a table)
  - ii. Our bread and cup (our table) = our communion of the blood and body of Christ
  - iii. "*we being many are one bread/body,*" because we partake of Christ's cross
- d. I'm seated in Christ; You're seated in Christ: together we're many seats, at one table
- e. Christ is not in the bread or cup: He is in us, we sit at the table – Col 1:27, Rom 8:9-10

### 4. To Eat or Not to Eat

- a. 1 Cor 10:18 – Eating sacrifices is to partake of altar of sacrifice (religious observance)
- b. 1 Cor 10:20 – Gentiles sacrifice to devils – eating their sacrifice = fellowship with devils
- c. 1 Cor 10:21 – You either have fellowship with the Lord or with devils not both
- d. Our fellowship with the Lord (Lord's table) = fellowship of the mystery = 1 Cor 1:9
- e. Paul brings up the table as an issue of unity and separation = you are the Lord's.
- f. 2 Cor 6:14-16 – Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, darkness, idols.
- g. We have already eaten that 'one bread', we are His, what other tables do we eat at?
- h. Whether eat or drink, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, do all to the glory of God – 1 Cor 10:31

## 5. Table Manners

- a. Who else is at the table? Members of the body of Christ.
- b. Who is sitting next to you? Someone in Christ, how will you come together?
- c. Guilty of division, disunity, damnation, or in peace, unity, discerning the Lord's body.
- d. 1 Cor 11:26-29 – A stern warning about how the Lord's body ate together
- e. Not discerning the Lord's body (Christ in you all) = eating not together – 1Cor 10:17
- f. For when you come together to eat, tarry for one another – 1 Cor 10:33