



THE LORD'S SUPPER

Definition: The Lord's Supper is a unique and sacred meal to be eaten together often with the body of Christ as a means to remember the Lord's sacrifice, demonstrate our current identity (oneness) in Christ, and look forward to His return.

The Purpose of the Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper proclaims and asserts the full reality of the death of Jesus Christ. In other words, the sacrifice of Christ defeated the bondage of sin, conquered the power of evil, reconciled us to God (oneness with God), and abolished the dividing wall of distinction between people (oneness with the Body) (v. 26).
- The Lord's Supper has past, present and future implications (v. 26)
 - Past: It looks *back* and remembers the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ
 - Present: It looks *around* by recognizing the present reconciling reality to God and with others of different socio-economic classes and ethnicities.
 - Future: It looks *forward* with confident hope to the return of Jesus Christ.

The Setting for the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-22, 27-33)

- The Lord's Supper was celebrated over an actual meal (v. 20, 33-34). Yet the meal was to be set apart from an ordinary meal in that it took on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Believers are guests of Jesus Christ at His Supper; therefore how they treat one another is a direct reflection of how they treat the Lord Jesus Christ. (v. 23).
- Believers must wait for one another and welcome through hospitality all people (rich and poor, slave and free, Jew and Gentile) through hospitality (v. 33).

The Bread and the Cup of the Lord's Supper – The Body of Christ (1 Cor. 11:23-25)

- The Bread (The Body of Christ): invites us to participate in the meaning and benefits of His death (v. 23).
- The Cup (The Blood of Christ): signifies that we are members of the New Covenant. Therefore we are reconciled to God and to one another because of the blood of Jesus Christ (v. 24).
- Remembrance: God is calling us to put ourselves back on that night, in a sense to participate in the event (v. 24).

Examination: Discern Yourself and the Health of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 11:17-22, 27-33)

- An unworthy manner refers to those who are making a mockery of the Lord's Supper by disregarding Jesus' reconciling work to God and to one another (our oneness) (v. 27).
- Examine:
 - Love for God (cf. 1 Cor. 10:14-22; 11:27-28): Examine your own heart devotion to Jesus Christ and repent of any idolatry or worldly affections.
 - Love for People (cf. 1 Cor. 11:17-22; 27-28): Examine yourself to make sure that your behavior towards fellow believers is appropriate – living and acting in love and charity with fellow members of the body (v. 28).
- Discern the Body (1 Cor. 11:18-19, 29): Examine the health of the body in light of God's intended design for His church (oneness in Christ). Spend time celebrating and praising God for His transforming work in forming all of you in some of the collective church identities. Recognize and confess ways that you all are not living consistent with some of the collective church identities.