

# “As Often As You Do This!”

1 Corinthians 11:25-26

**Intro.** – One of the most prominent denominational preachers of the 1800’s = listen carefully to what he wrote:

“When we began to break bread on *every* first day of the week, I heard some say they thought that communion so often to the Table might take away the impressiveness of the holy feast. Well, I have scarcely missed a Sunday these twenty years and I never was so impressed with the solemnity and sweetness of the Master’s Supper as I am now. I feel it to be fresher every time. When it was observed once a month, I had not half the enjoyment, and I think that where friends have the communion once a quarter or once a year, as in some churches, they really do not give the ordinance a fair opportunity to edify them. They do not test the value of an ordinance which they so grossly neglect...” (Charles H. Spurgeon)

*Purpose: to see our need to meet around the Lord’s Table EVERY first day of the week*

Certainly you are aware most churches have the communion; yet, they spread it but once a month, a quarter or annually. Church history records how this got started. The practice of the Lord’s Supper was all but lost in the Roman Church. The Council of Agatha (AD 506) decreed, “none should be esteemed a good Christian who do not communicate (i.e. have communion) at least three times a year – Christmas, Easter, Whitsunday.” This became the standard of a good Christian and it was judged presumptuous to commune any more often.

“Things went on this way for 600 years until they got tired of even three communications in a year... The Council of Lateran decreed that ‘an annual communion at Easter was sufficient.’”

With this fresh in mind, let’s examine the Bible and see what the First Century Church did in regards to the Lord’s Supper. Also, I want to consider some common objections given:

## I Considerations for WEEKLY Communion

### A. The Church at Jerusalem (Acts 2:42)

1. Acts 2:42 – they “*steadfastly*” continued in four matters: “apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayer.”
2. Use the First Church as our example, we certainly ought to be *steadfast* in the breaking of bread together as we are in the other three areas!

### B. The Church at Troas (Acts 20:7)

1. Prior to completion of the N.T., apostles taught churches to do all that the Lord desired.
2. Whatever the churches did by appointment from the apostles, they did by commandment of Christ.
3. Whatever acts of worship taught by the apostles in one church, were taught/sanctioned in all churches. How do we know this? All are under the same Headship – Christ!
4. Troas met on *the* first day of the week
  - a. definite article *the* makes clear this was their practice – i.e. every Sunday they broke bread.
  - b. Lord’s Supper was the focal point of their worship together – e.g. Paul tarried seven days in Troas so as to be able to assemble with the Christians at Troas church.
  - c. conclusion: precedence is = every first day of the week early church assembled for worship and the focal point of this worship was the Lord’s Supper.

### C. The Church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:2)

1. This text makes clear they met “as the church every first day of the week...”
2. 1 Corinthians 11:20ff – chief objective for their coming together was the Lord’s Supper...
3. This alone makes clear to partake of the Lord’s Supper once a week means one is acting under the teaching/precedence of the apostles, which in turn means under the authority of Christ.

Summary: If it is not the privilege and proper response of every Christian to assemble on first day of the week for the express purpose of meeting around the Lord’s Table, it would be impossible from reason to show it is their privilege and proper response to meet monthly, quarterly etc. about the Lord’s Table based on Scripture.

Point: we have Scriptural reason behind our meeting each first day of the week in remembrance of our Lord!

## II Considerations Against WEEKLY Communion

### A. “Times Have Changed”

1. Reasoning: First Christians needed to meet frequently because persecutions gave them ground to fear every Sunday may be their last. Today, we’re under no such danger; therefore, we need not use this ordinance as often...
2. Biblical Response:
  - a. ought we not live as if every Sunday were to be our last?...
  - b. this objection becomes even more absurd when we realize God requires the greatest work at the greatest opportunity and least work at the least opportunity (Romans 2-4)...
  - c. who is to say the allurements of today are less harmful spiritually speaking than open persecutions?... Frankly, it is more difficult as a Christian to live in *good times* as compared to *bad times*...
3. We today need to be reminded of the Cross of Calvary by being about His Table. We need it just as often as the early church!

### B. “It Will Lose Its Meaning”

1. Reasoning: “If the Lord’s Supper were served every week, it would lose its value and become a ritual quite contemptible.”
2. Biblical Response:
  - a. invert is objection and see how it sounds – “... it would not lose its value...”
  - b. evidently man’s wisdom exceeds God’s... infrequent participation in the Lord’s Supper is man’s device and certainly not God’s!
    - Illus. – Associated Press (04-23-69) St. Louis, MO tells of a man’s wisdom in this matter who is part of today’s largest denominations: “The use of hamburger buns/soft drinks at Communion is acceptable if those items have religious significance for the communicate..” “We are determined not to continue doing things that have no meaning in this modern world.”
3. When I hear this kind of reasoning: “God didn’t know what He was doing when He said, ‘As often as you do this...’”
4. If infrequent spreading of the Lord’s Supper makes it more *solemn*” then the same logic would conclude that a prayer once a month... sermon... Bible reading/study say every quarter would make one far more devoted and impressed with God!
  - Illus. – On a call with Dad who answered the same question of a High School teacher by asking if he only kissed his wife once a month...
5. The point needs to be made: there is NO SCRIPTURAL warrant for having the Lord’s Supper less than EVERY first day of the week..

Summary: Church history and logic alone deal with most objections to having the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week... But in light of Scripture our privilege and proper response is to be about His Table EVERY first day of the week!

**Conclusion:** The Kiwanis Club of America has a standing policy: “Miss three meetings in a row and you are out.” Why do you suppose they have this policy? It seems quite evident: they want *faithfulness* to their purpose and to get that faithfulness they need a consistent reminder of what that purpose is!

I conclude by saying the Bible says precisely the same thing concerning the Lord’s Supper – to remind us of our purpose! But how often should we meet? Let the Bible speak and next week, as well as, every remaining Sunday until the Lord returns, we will meet together in remembrance of Him!