

Acceptable Worship

Lord's Supper (I Co 11:23-29)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on that which God deems makes for "Acceptable Worship."
 - a. Last week we looked at "Singing."
 - i. **Ps 95:1-2** "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"
 - b. This week we are going to look at the "Lord's Supper."¹
 - i. **I Co 11:23-29** "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."
3. There is no other act of worship that should have a greater priority than this one act yet it is, in many if not all denominations, the one act that is left to be done only on occasion rather than weekly.
 - a. Think about it every group, for the most part...
 - i. Sings, prays, preaches, and gives "every" Sunday.
 - b. However the partaking of the Lord's Supper which was a focus "for coming together" by the early church is left to monthly, quarterly, or biannually.
4. Let us each examine now, therefore, what God considers acceptable as pertaining to the Lord's Supper.

I. The Pattern Established By God

- A. The bread first and then the fruit of the vine
 1. Christ established this pattern
 - i. **Mt 26:26-29** "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'"

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. Paul confirmed this pattern
 - i. **I Co 11:23-25** “For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.””
 3. Thus we find that we must partake of the Lord’s Supper by taking the bread first then the fruit of the vine.
- B. The bread is to be “unleavened” and the juice is to be “unfermented.”
1. One has to look no further than when the Lord’s Supper was established to determine that the bread was unleavened.
 - i. The Lord’s Supper was established by Jesus after the parting of the Passover Feast.
 - a. The Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread
 1. This feast was established by God to remember the haste by which they fled out of Egypt and was to be done for seven days.
 - i. **Dt 16:3** “You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction—for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.”
 2. The Passover was to be the kick start of this week long feast.
 - i. **Dt 16:1-2** “Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. 2 And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose, to make his name dwell there.”
 - ii. Hence we can see clearly that Jesus used unleavened bread and therefore authorized only unleavened bread.
 2. One has to look no further than when the Lord’s Supper was established to determine that the juice is unfermented and did not have alcohol in it.
 - i. The Lord’s Supper was established by Jesus while He was still under the Law of Moses.
 - a. Under the Old Law the Jews were not to drink of alcoholic wine.
 1. The priest could not drink “wine” meaning alcoholic grape juice.
 - i. **Lv 10:8-11**
 2. The kings and rulers could not drink wine.
 - i. **Pr 31:4-5**
 3. The Jews were told to not look at wine.
 - i. **Pr 23:31**

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4. The faithful Jews considered drinking wine a defilement.
 - i. **Da 1:5-8**
 5. It a Jewish crime to give alcohol to another person.
 - i. **Hk 2:15**
 - ii. Subsequently we can see clearly that Jesus used the “fruit of the vine” not wine and therefore authorized grape juice not alcoholic wine.
 3. Thus the bread is to be unleavened and the juice is to be unfermented grape juice.
- C. Each first day of the week is when the Lord’s Supper is to be partaken of
1. The example given us by God in His Word clearly points to only one conclusion concerning when and how often we are to partake of the Lord’s Supper.
 - i. Notice the only time we see Christians partaking of the Lord’s Supper is on the first day of the week.
 - a. **Ac 20:7** “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”
 - ii. Notice the only time we see “how often” the church met to partake of the Lord’s Supper is with the Corinthians.
 - a. **I Co 11:20** “When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat.”
 - b. **I Co 16:2** “On the first day of every week.
 1. We see the Corinthians were meeting every week and every time they met they were partaking of the Lord’s Supper among other aspects of worship as well.
 - i. **I Co 14:26-38**
 2. Thus we can clearly see the church met on each first day of the week to partake of the Lord’s Supper.
- D. Thus...
1. We find a clear authorized pattern for all Christians to follow.

II. The Expectations For Each Of Us

- A. Before we partake of the Lord’s Supper we are to...
1. Examine ourselves
 - i. This means we are to make sure we understand the scriptural/worthy manner the Lord’s Supper is to be partaken of before we partake of it.
 - a. **I Co 11:27-28** “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”
 1. “Unworthy” is an adverb to the verbs “eats & drinks.”
 - b. Thus this is not talking about our personal worthiness but rather the scriptural nature of our partaking.
 1. Is it according to the biblical pattern?
 - ii. Therefore we are to make sure we examine our understanding of the biblical pattern before we partake to make sure we will partake of it worthily.

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- B. While we partake of the Lord's Supper we are to...
1. Discern the body and blood
 - i. **I Co 11:29** "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."
 - a. Notice the word "discerning."
 1. This means to "to separate, make a distinction, discriminate" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
 - b. In other words Paul is saying we need to understand the difference between the body and blood of during our memorial of Christ.
 1. When we partake of the unleavened bread we are to be thinking about the body of Christ and the sacrifice he made leading up to His death on the cross.
 - i. **Mt 27:27-44**
 2. When we partake of the grape juice we are to be thinking about the blood shed (death) of Christ and His resurrection.
 - i. **Mt 27:45-50; Mt 28:1-6**
 - ii. Therefore we are to understand the proper things we are to focus on during each aspect of the Lord's Supper.
- C. Thus...
1. Brethren if we know what God wants from us concerning the Lord's Supper both in pattern and expectation we will partake of this great memorial in a worthy manner.

CONCLUSION

1. Our God is a great and wonderful God who graciously and magnificently laid out His pattern and expectations for us as pertaining to the memorial of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.
 - a. Brethren not partaking of the Lord's Supper is a sin for every Christian.
 - i. Let us make sure we do not sin by not partaking of this great memorial.
 - ii. Let us make sure we do not sin either by not partaking in a scriptural way.
2. Question: Do you know the scriptural way to partake of the Lord's Supper and are you partaking of it as a Christian remembering Christ's great sacrifice on our behalf?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**