

1. The Lord's Supper

- a. The second ordinance is the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a sacred meal that should only be practiced by the church.

1 Corinthians 11:2 "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

- This ordinance ("The LORD'S Supper" — *1 Corinthians 11:20*) is also referred to:
 - "The LORD'S Table" — *1 Corinthians 10:21* – This communicates that it is the Lord's)
 - "The Breaking of Bread" – *Acts 2:42* – This communicates the suffering of the Lord, as it was the Lord's body that was broken.
 - "The Communion" — *1 Corinthians 10:16* – This communicates the common bond we have in the Lord.

- b. The Lord supper is not given to the church as an option, but a command to obey.

1) COMMANDED BY THE LORD

Luke 22:19 "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do** in remembrance of me."

2) CONTINUED BY THE CHURCH

Acts 2:42 "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

3) CONFIRMED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL

1 Corinthians 11:23 "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:"

- c. The Lord supper is given to the church collectively, and not to individual independently. In other words, a Christian cannot practice this at home without the church.

- 1 Corinthians 11, gives the definitive description that the Lord's Supper is for the Church.
 - verse 17 — "that ye COME TOGETHER"
 - verse 18 — "when ye COME TO GETHERIN THE CHURCH"
 - verse 20 — "when ye COME TOGETHER therefore into ONE PLACE"
 - verse 22 — "have ye not houses ... despise ye the CHURCH of God"
 - verse 33 — "when ye COME TOGETHER to eat, tarry ONE FOR ANOTHER"

d. The Purpose of the Lord's Supper.

- The purpose of the Lord's Supper is that the church can come together and remember the Lord in a special way:

1 Corinthians 11:24 "... *this do in remembrance of me.*"

1) IN REMEMBRANCE

- We remember the price that Jesus paid to purchase our redemption.

1 Corinthians 11:24 "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, *Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.*"

- We remember and reflect to rejoice in the Lord!
- We remember the suffering of Jesus Christ that demonstrates God's love for us!
- We remember our first love that we may continue to be faithful in loving Him.

2) IN DEMONSTRATION

- When we remember by partaking of the bread and the cup it illustrates the Lord's death. (This leads us to the next point)

1 Corinthians 11:26 "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

e. The Picture of the Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper is a picture of the Lord's amazing sacrificial death.
- The Bible identifies certain elements to be used for the Lord's Supper.
 - There must not be any compromise when trying to source out the bread and the cup.
 - Hillsong (The counterfeit church) encouraged their members to have communion with a cookie and some orange juice or whatever is convenient. This is purely blasphemy, and distorts the picture of Christ.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO_oZwxa3hw
- There is an important picture in which the Lord desires to convey.
 - When Jesus established the "Lord's Supper", He did so by using the elements of the Pre-Passover meal, which also demonstrates the picture of "the lamb they were slain."

1 Corinthians 5:7 "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"

1) THE BREAD

- The bread used must be unleavened bread.
 - The Passover meal used unleavened bread — Exodus 12:1-14.
 - Leaven is a general picture of sin — Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1; 1 Corinthians 5:7,8; Galatians 5:7,9.
 - Only unleavened bread will fully represent the sinless Saviour. Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 10:10; 1 Peter 2:22, 24.

2) THE CUP

- There is a great debate over whether alcoholic red wine should be used in the Lord's Supper.
 - When referring to the Lord supper, the word "CUP" and the "Fruit of Vine" is mentioned. This is referring to grape juice.
 - This gives us a good indication that it was non-alcoholic red grape juice that pictured the PURE blood of Christ.

Matthew 26:29 *"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

f. The Pre-warning given before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

- The Lord's Supper ought not to be observed in a flippant way.
 - The church at Corinth were getting sick, and some were even dying for taking the "Lord's Supper" in an unworthy manner.

1) Unworthy

1 Corinthians 11:27 *"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."*

- "Unworthy" is an adverb. It means we ought not to take the Lord's Supper "in an unworthy manner."
 - The church at Corinth did not treat the "Lord's Supper" a sacred meal.
 - This is not a time of feasting, but rather it is a time of thanksgiving. Paul had to remind the church that this supper is a time to remember the Lord.
- To eat in an unworthy manner is to eat without discerning "the Lord's body"
 - Not discerning the Lord's body is to fail to remember that the Lord's body was given and broken for our sins.

1 Corinthians 11:29 *"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*

F. G. Patterson writes, *"If we eat the Lord's Supper with unjudged sin upon us, we do not discern the Lord's body which was broken to put it away."*

2) Shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord

1 Corinthians 11:27 *"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."*

- This does not mean that the person who partakes of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner has become personally responsible for the Lord's death.
 - This means that they are guilty of dishonoring the Lord's death.
 - They are guilty by demonstrating a careless and heartless attitude toward the suffering saviour.

3) Examine

1 Corinthians 11:28 “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”

- Participating in the Lord’s Supper is to be preceded by an earnest self-examination. “Let a man examine HIMSELF”
 - **Examine** = to put to the test, to discern, to prove.
 - To examine ourselves also means to make a right judgement ourselves:

1 Corinthians 11:31 “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”

- The following questions will help us make the right judgement:
 - i. Are there any **SINS** that I must confess to the Lord?
 - ii. Are there any **STRONHOLDS** that I must surrender to the Lord?
 - iii. Are there any **SAINTS** that I must forgive or ask for their forgiveness?
 - iv. Are there any **SCRIPTURES** that the Lord wants me to obey?
- **Note:** These ALL are a reflection with our walk with the Lord.

4) Damnation

1 Corinthians 11:29 “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”

- The word “Damnation” is not always descriptive of “hellfire”.
 - It means “condemnation or judgment” in the physical sense.
 - Context helps determine the proper use of the word.

1 Corinthians 11:30 “For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”

- There is a sin that leads unto death (1 John 5)
 - Christians that have been biblically church disciplined can also be in danger of this if they eat without demonstrating true biblical repentance. (1 Corinthians 5)
- This “Damnation” refers to the chastening hand of God.

1 Corinthians 11:32 “But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

g. The Practice of the Church

1) Who can take the Lord’s Supper?

- i. **Closed Communion** — The ordinance is restricted to church members ONLY who are not on church discipline.
- ii. **Close Communion** — The ordinance is restricted to church members who are not on church discipline, but is open to any visiting members of churches of like faith. .
- iii. **Convenient Communion**—The ordinance open to ‘all who profess Christianity. This is done in a careless way.

2) When should we observe the Lord’s Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”

- The words “For as often” gives liberty to the church to choose how regular they will come together to partake of the sacred meal.

i. ONCE A WEEK

- Some churches observe the Lord’s Supper weekly, based upon Acts 20:7.

Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

ii. MONTHLY

- Some churches observe the Lord’s Supper monthly, based upon 1 Corinthians 11:26.

iii. YEARLY

- Some churches observe the Lord’s Supper yearly following the pattern of the Passover meal.

3) How often do we do the Lord’s Supper?

- The simple answer is found in verse 26. “TILL HE COME”
- The Lord’s Supper is a perpetual ordinance.

1 Corinthians 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”

- When the Lord comes back again He will take His place at the table like He promised He would.

Matthew 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

- h. The Presetting of the Lord's Supper in the church. (This is an example)
- 1) Start with a 5-10min devotion (This is optional)
 - 2) Warn the visitors before partaking of the Lord's Supper.
 - There might be visitors amongst the congregation. You must prompt them by letting them know that is scared meal is for the church.
 - Briefly, go through Acts 2:41-42.
 - A Person must be saved, biblically baptised, waling with God, and part of a good Bible believing church before they partake.
 - 3) Warn the congregation before partaking the Lord's Supper.
 - The church must examine themselves before partaking.
 - There might be some brethren that might have stubborn sins in their life, and they are no willing to get it right.
 - Briefly, go through 1 Corinthians 11:27-33
 - 4) Encourage the church to look to the Lord and reflect, remember, and rejoice in the Lord.
 - This is a time of silence and personal prayer.
 - Give sufficient time.
 - 5) Choose two brothers from the congregation to help you distribute the bread and the cup.
 - Make sure they are walking with the Lord.
 - Let them know prior to the meeting. They can help prepare the elements before the meeting.
 - Ask the men to both pray and thank the Lord before they distribute the elements. The person with the bread can pray first.
 - After prayer they can distribute the bread and cup.
 - 6) Partaking together
 - Make sure you let the congregation know to wait until every one as received the elements partaking.
 - Before eating the bread together, you can quote 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.
 - Before drinking from the cup together, you can quote 1 Corinthians 11:25.
 - Close with 1 Corinthians 11:26, a prayer of thanksgiving, and a hymn.

i. The Lord's Supper helps us **LOOK**

A LOOK UPWARD "...and when He had given thanks"

A LOOK BACKWARD "...ye do shew the Lord's death"

A LOOK INWARD "...let a man examine himself"

A LOOK FORWARD "till He come."