

The Lord's Supper

I. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. Old Testament Background

1. The Old Testament was full of memorials for the Israelites.

Sampling of these memorials are as follows:

- Genesis 9:13-16 - Rainbow;
- Exodus 20:8-11 - Sabbath;
- Exodus 16:32- Omer of Manna in the Ark of Testimony;
- Exodus 28:7-12 - Names of the Sons of Israel on High Priest's clothes;
- Joshua 4:5, 6 - Stones at the crossing of the Jordan;
- Joshua 24:21-28 - Stones as a witness to a vow

2. List some purposes for memorials in the Old Testament

a) Exodus 12:25-27 - _____

b) Joshua 4:6 - _____

3. It was during one of the memorials (the Passover, Exodus 12:1-14) that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper

4. I Corinthians 5:7-8 - "Christ is our _____"

B. Institution of the Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:17-20, 26-29; Mark 14:12-17, 22-25; Luke 22:7-20

1. Jesus said "this is my b_____ given for you"

2. From the following scriptures, tell what is significant about his "body":

a. John 1:14; 2 John 7 - Jesus became _____

b. Heb 2:16-18 - Since Jesus became human (sharing in flesh and blood), he also became a _____

c. I Cor 10:17 - We are all one _____

d. Eph 2:13-16 - We all have been reconciled together into _____

one _____

e. Unleavened bread

1) Exodus 12:18-20 - The original Passover bread was not to have any _____ in it.

2) 1 Cor 5:7-8 - Leaven symbolizes _____

3) Hebrews 4:15 - Jesus was without _____

4) The unleavened bread reminds us Jesus was without sin

4. Jesus also said, "this is my b_____ of the new covenant."

5. From the following passages, tell the significance of his blood:

a. Ephesians 2:11-13 - You have been _____ by the blood of Christ

b. Hebrews 9:11-12 - Through his own blood, Jesus obtained _____

c. Romans 3:24-25 - God displayed Jesus as a _____ through his blood

d. Romans 5:9 - We are _____ by his blood

e. I Peter 1:18-19 - You were redeemed with precious _____

f. I John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus washes away our _____

g. Acts 20:28 - The church is _____ with the blood of Christ

h. Revelation 12:11 - The saints overcame the accuser by the _____

II. Ruining the Lord's Supper. I Cor 11:17-34

A. Paul said in verse 20 that when they met together, it was not to eat the Lord's Supper. Whose supper were they eating then? Explain your answer.

B. How does one eat and drink the Lord's Supper in an "unworthy manner?"

C. How were these Christians not "discerning" the body?

D. What considerations should be taken to eat the Lord's Supper in a worthy way?

III. Explain how the Lord's Supper is focused in the following ways:

A. I Cor 11:24-25 - How does the Lord's Supper look to the past?

B. I Cor 11:26b - How does the Lord's Supper look to the future?

C. I Cor 11:28 - How does the Lord's Supper look inward?

D. I Cor 11:29 and 33-34 - How does the Lord's Supper look outward?

IV. When and how often do we have the Lord's Supper?

A. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he said nothing about its repetition and frequency

B. I Corinthians 11:17ff - Paul had passed on what he “received from the Lord”

1. It is to be continued
2. However, there is no reference to frequency except “as often as you do it...”
3. How often is often? Results widely differ today:
 - a. Some do it on Thursday night
 - b. Some do it Monthly
 - c. Some do it every Sunday
 - d. Some do it annually
4. Acts 20:7 – They met together on the first day to break bread
(This passage gives us an example of when the first Christians met to partake of communion)
 - a. Acts 2:42, 46 - Likely a common meal (was a difference between what they did in the temple and in the home)
 - b. Acts 20:7, 11. One is the Lord’s Supper and the other a common meal. Greek indicates in verse 7 - “for the purpose of breaking bread”
 - c. Example of the Apostolic church is doing the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, which is also the day that Christ rose from the grave.

C. “Our religious friends have sometimes maintained that observing the Lord’s Supper every Sunday may produce such familiarity as to make it lose its meaning. We do many other things with frequency and regularity that do not produce complacency. I kiss my wife and tell her I love her every day. I enjoy it, and she tells me that she does not grow tired of it, even though it is frequent. Our keeping of the weekly memorial Supper of Christ need not become any more commonplace.” - Don R. Carroll *Gospel Advocate*, June 1989 p. 22