

Lord's Supper - cont.

people hope for in the future (1 Corinthians 11:26) and it is **examination** – what God's people discern about themselves and Christ (1 Corinthians 11:28).

The Five “Looks” of the Lord's Supper

When a Christian partakes of the Lord's supper today he or she is to engage in five spiritual “looks” or perspectives. First, there is the look **backward** – to the cross of Christ. Second, **forward** – to the coming of Christ. Third, **inward** – to self in examination. Fourth, **outward** – to others in proclamation. Fifth, **upward** – to God in obedience and thanks.

Improving Our Participation in the Lord's Supper

How can Christians make sure that they partake of the Lord's supper in the right way? They can come to the table with a dedicated life (1 Corinthians 10:21), focus on the spiritual, not the physical (1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 33-34), read scripture while they think back (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), and take seriously their discernment of the Lord's body and themselves (1 Corinthians 11:27-32). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Sometimes people have plenty of ability, they just lack motivation.
- True greatness comes in serving, not in being served.
- Sometimes you don't appreciate the anchor until you go through the storm.
- With the right faith, suffering leads us closer to God, not farther away.
- Blessed are the poor in spirit.

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Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Worship Series: The Lord's Supper (Part I)

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. And the cup in like manner after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, even that which is poured out for you.
- Luke 22:19-20 -

With this article, I would like to begin a five-part series of studies on the basics of New Testament church worship. What did New Testament Christians do when they gathered together to worship the Lord? One thing they did was to take the Lord's supper together. It is called communion, breaking bread, and the Lord's supper in the New Testament.

Lord's Supper Basics

What is the Lord's supper? The Lord's supper was first instituted by Jesus on the night of his betrayal. He took bread that would have been unleavened (see Deuteronomy 16:1-8) and some fruit of the vine, or grape juice, and used these items to represent his body and blood (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23). Jesus wanted his disciples to remember on a regular

basis what he would do for them, and all the world, on the cross.

The Lord's supper was later taken for the first time on the day of Pentecost by the Christians, not non-Christians (Acts 2:42).



The Lord's supper was taken when the disciples gathered together as a congregational activity, not an individual activity (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

The Lord's supper was taken regularly on Sunday, the first day of the week, not just a few times a year (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

The Lord's supper was an act of obedience to God. Jesus said, "... take ... eat ... drink ... this do ..." (Luke 22:19). It was not optional.

The Lord's supper, in contrast to the Passover, was related to three "new" things: 1) a new kingdom/covenant; 2) a

new deliverance from sin; and, 3) a new day of observance, Sunday, not the Sabbath (Matthew 26:29).

The Lord's supper was a special meal with just two elements (unleavened bread and fruit of the vine), not a common meal with regular food (1 Corinthians 11:33-34).

What Is the Lord's Supper?

Today, the Lord's supper is many things to the one who partakes. It is **appreciation** – what God's people give to God (1 Corinthians 11:24) and it is **dedication** – what God expects his people to do (Luke 22:20).

It is **commemoration** – what God's people remember about God's gift (1 Corinthians 11:24-26) and it is **participation** – what God's people and God share with each other (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

It is **revitalization** – what God gives his people through the "supper" (1 Corinthians 11:20) and it is **proclamation** (1 Corinthians 11:26) – what God's people tell others about the Lord.

It is **anticipation** – what God's