

The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

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The Lord's Supper

It Is A Memorial. *"This do in remembrance of me."*

- **What is a memorial?** "something, especially a structure, established to remind people of a person or event." (Google)
 - Rainbow. Genesis 9:12ff
 - The Passover. Exodus 12:14, 24; 13:8, 14
 - Ark of the Covenant: Hebrews 9:4
 - Omer of manna. Exodus 16:33
 - Aaron's rod. Exodus 7-8; Numbers 17:6-10
 - Tablets of stone. Deuteronomy 6:20

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➤ The twelve stones. Joshua 4:22

The Lord's Supper

It Is A Memorial. *"This do in remembrance of me."*

- Remember His death. Matthew 26:28
- Remember His love. Romans 5:8
- Remember the horror of sin. Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:22; 10:1ff
 - Makes the New Covenant possible. Hebrews 9:16

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• Makes remission possible. Ephesians 1:7

The Lord's Supper

It Is A Proclamation. 1 Corinthians 11:26

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death..."

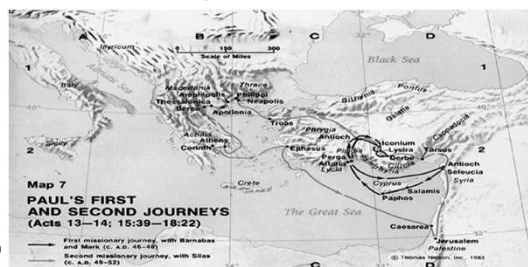
- Proclamation of our faith in the benefits of His blood.
- "... till he come." cf. John 5:28-29; cf. 2 Peter 3:8ff

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The Lord's Supper

It Is A Communion, a fellowship, sharing in the blood of Christ, and a sharing with other Christians.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17ff



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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Reverence.

"in a worthy manner" (NKJV) – 1 Corinthians 11:27, 29
"worthily" (KJV)

EAT IN A WORTHY MANNER

(1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

- Unworthy manner?
 - As a meal. (1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 34)
 - Carelessly, casually, irreverently (talking, disturbing, disrupting), etc.

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Reverence. “*in a worthy manner*” (NKJV) – 1 Corinthians 11:27,29
“*worthily*” (KJV)

- Failure to observe with proper reverence brings condemnation – 1 Corinthians 11:27, 29
 - One will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
 - One will eat and drink judgment to himself.

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Reverence.

A.T. Robertson: “He does not say or imply that we ourselves must be ‘worthy’ (*axioi*) to partake of the Lord’s Supper. No one would ever partake on those terms.” (*Word Pictures, in the NT*, IV:165)

Albert Barnes: “Most persons interpret it as if it were *unworthy*, and not *unworthily*; and seem to suppose that it refers to their personal qualifications, to their *unfitness* to partake of it, rather than to the *manner* in which it is done. It is to be remembered, therefore, that the word here used is an *adverb*, and not an *adjective*, and has reference to the manner of observing the ordinance, and not to their personal qualifications or fitness.” (1 Corinthians, 217)

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Self-Examination.

dokimazo – Scrutinize and thus approve

- Am I discerning the Lord’s body? – 1 Corinthians 11:29
- Am I judging my conduct? – 1 Corinthians 11:31

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Self-Examination.

- Examine your *thankfulness* – 1 Corinthians 11:24-25
- Examine your *memory* – 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, 29
- Examine your *focus* (fixed on the death of Jesus)
- Examine your *actions* (eliminate distractions)

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed With Self-Examination.

Warning: Some are trying to revise the meaning and method of eating the Lord’s supper!

- “The supper as a whole is the experience of fellowship we gratefully and joyously share with the Lord and with one another” (Randy Hohf, “Biblical Perspectives on Fellowship Meals”).
- Hohf means “*a true meal, a supper in the fullest sense of the word*” (Ibid., Parts 4 and 5, emphasis his).

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed Often. (Frequency)

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

Acts 20:7, “*And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and prolonged his speech until midnight.*”

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed Often. (Frequency)

- "... the early church writers from Barnabas, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, to Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Cyprian, all with one consent, declare that the church **observed the first day of the week**. They are equally agreed that the Lord's Supper was observed weekly, **on the first day of the week**." – B. W. Johnson, The People's New Testament
- "As we have already remarked, the celebration of the Lord's Supper was still held to constitute an essential part of divine worship **every Sunday**, as appears from Justin Martyr (A.D. 150) ..." – Augustus Neander (Lutheran), History Of The Christian Religion And Church, Volume I, page 332

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The Lord's Supper

To Be Observed Often. (Frequency)

- "This ordinance (the Lord's Supper) seems to have been administered **every Lord's day**; and probably no professed Christian absented themselves ..." – Thomas Scott (Presbyterian), Commentary On Acts 20:7
- "This also is an important example of **weekly** communion as the practice of the first Christians." – A. C. Hervey (Episcopalian), Commentary On Acts 20:7

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The Lord's Supper

The first Christians "*continued steadfastly*" in its observance.

- Acts 2:42, "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.*"

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The Lord's Supper

- Authorized people: Citizens of the Kingdom. Luke 22:18
- Authorized Assembly: Church Assembled. 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, 33-34
 - For worship. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 2:12
 - To discipline the unruly. 1 Corinthians 5:4
 - To take care of business. Acts 6:1-4
 - To report on evangelism. Acts 14:27
 - To discuss differences. Acts 15; Galatians 2:11-14
 - To read the Scriptures. 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16
 - To exhort and provoke. Hebrews 10:24
- To pray. Acts 12:12

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The Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper is to be observed.
 - "This do." 1 Corinthians 11:24-25
 - "Drink ye ALL of it." Matthew 26:27
- By The Lord's People.
 - "In the kingdom." Matthew 26:29
 - "Communion." 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- On The Lord's Day.
 - "Upon the first day of the week." Acts 20:7
 - "For as often" defined ... Weekly. 1 Corinthians 11:26; cf. Exodus 20:8
- In The Lord's Assembly.
 - "Come together" Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 20, 33-34
 - "Wait" *ekdechomai* (wait, tarry): "1) to receive, accept 2) to look for, expect, wait for, await" (Thayer)

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The Lord's Supper

- Authorized Realm: Kingdom. Luke 22:18
- Authorized Assembly: Assembly of the church. 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, 33-34
- Authorized Time: First day of the week. Acts 20:7
- Authorized Elements: Unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Luke 22:18-20; Matthew 26:26-29
- Authorized Participants: Disciples. Acts 20:7
- Authorized Conduct. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

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The Lord's Supper

- There is so much to remember about the death of Jesus.
- Our remembrance as we eat the Lord's Supper ought to cause us to embrace the depth of God's gracious love which was fully expressed in the suffering, surrender and sacrifice of Jesus.