

The Design of the Lord's Table

Matt 26:26-30 “. . . And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

It is in this passage that our Lord instituted what we call the “Lord’s Supper”. This morning before we partake of the table I want to take time to instruct us in the meaning and purpose of the table. Why is it called the Lord’s Supper? What do the elements of the table say to us? How does the table itself instruct us in the things of God? And How does it set us apart from the world?

A. Why is it called the Lord’s Supper or the Communion Table?

1. It is called the Communion Table because we fellowship together around our Savior and what He accomplished for us

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

2. It is called the Lord’s Supper, from the circumstance of its first institution, which took place when Christ and his disciples were at supper.

*vs. 26-28 And **as they were eating**, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

- a. On the night our Lord instituted the Lord’s Supper was at the meal when the paschal lamb, was eaten which the law required to be celebrated at night.
- b. We no longer have a meal at the Lord’s Table in that the Passover celebration has been abolished by the sacrifice of the true Paschal Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

3. Why is it done in the assembly of the church whether many or few, but not alone?

- a. We learn this from the fact that at the time of its institution the disciples were all present.

Luke 22:17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

- b. Also it is confirmed by what the Apostle says when instructing the church at Corinth on the Lord’s Table observance: “When you **come together** in one place this is not to eat the Lord’s supper;”

4. The very purpose is to show that we being many are one bread, and one body.

*1 Cor 10:16-17 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For **we, though many, are one bread and one body**; for **we all partake of that one bread**.*

5. The Lord’s Table therefore, consists in the rite and the promise annexed to it, or in the signs and things signified.
 - a. The visible signs are the bread, which is broken the wine, which is poured out.
 - b. The things signified are the broken body, and shed blood of Christ.
 - c. The elements are nothing, Christ is the means.

B. WHAT IS THE DESIGN OF THE LORD’S SUPPER? The Lord’s supper was instituted:

1. That it might be a confirmation of our faith, or a most sure proof of our union, and communion with Christ, who feeds us with his body and blood unto everlasting life
 - a. As we partake of the bread and wine this morning we are made aware that by faith in the broken body and shed blood of Christ we are made one with Christ.

*John 17:20-22 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that **they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

- b. That He is our life and nourishment, without Him we can do nothing.

*John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.*

- c. Also we are made aware that although we are separate individuals here this morning we are but one body in Christ.

*Rom 12:5-6 so **we, being many, are one body in Christ**, and individually members of one another.*

2. Also as we partake of this table this morning we are making a public confession of our faith in Christ and His work upon the cross as the only sacrifice for our sins.
 - a. Christ Jesus is the central focus of our observance this morning.

"This do in remembrance of me." "For as often as you eat of this bread, and drink of this cup, you do show the Lord's death till he come." (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:26)

- b. We are expressing our thankfulness to God for our redemption.

Col 1:12-14 giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance** of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**.

This remembrance or commemoration of Christ precedes and speaks of our faith in Him who loved us after which we make public confession, and acknowledgements of our thankfulness.

CONCLUSION: It is a public distinction, or badge, by which the true church may be known, and recognized from the world.

The Lord has instituted this supper for none, but those who are his disciples.

1 Cor 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

It was instituted to show our bond of love, Christ toward His church, His church toward Him, and His Church to one another.

"For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread." (1 Cor. 10:17)

Those now who are members of the same body have a mutual love one for another.

John 15:12-13 This is My commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you**. **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends**.

1 John 4:10-11 In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**. Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another**.