

## Baptist Distinctives- The Lord's Supper

What is the Lord's Supper?

What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

What does it cause us to do?

What the Lord's Supper is not.

Other names:

Communion

The Sacrament

The Eucharist

Key Passages:

Matthew 26:26-28

Luke 22

Exodus 12:1-28

1 Corinthians 10:16-22

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

What is the Lord's Supper? (Matthew 26:26-28)

- The Lord's Supper is the ordinance of the church in which the life, death, and resurrection of Christ are remembered.
- The elements of the Lord's Supper that we use are the same elements that Jesus used: bread and wine/juice.
- This is the final supper that the Lord had with His Apostles before His death.

- Luke 22:14-15
- Jesus was eager to eat this final supper with them because He knew that this was the moment that He had been born for.
- He was going to take on the sin of His people while securing the Kingdom of God for all of eternity.

Are the elements important?

- Yes! The elements are extremely important.
- Some denominations actually decry the fact that Baptists use juice instead of wine.
- I believe that the Bible leaves room for the fruit of the vine to be alcoholic or non alcoholic.
- There is no Biblical support to say that Jesus did not use actual wine during this supper.
- The Biblical is quite clear that the elements to be used are bread and fruit of the grape vine.

Symbolism

- God uses symbolism all the time.
- He used circumcision. He uses baptism. He uses it in prophecy. Jesus spoke in parables.
- The symbols of the bread and wine/juice are important.
- While it is a symbolic act we believe that Jesus is present through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Passover

### Exodus 12:1-28

- The Lord's Supper is a parallel to the Passover.
- The Passover looks forward to the sacrifice of the Messiah while the Lord's Supper looks back on it.
- Symbolism

### What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

- Jesus used it as a time that He could give His apostles some final instructions, warnings, and encouragement before they would be traumatized by His death.
- Imagine knowing what you were about to suffer but also what your friends were about to suffer because of you.
- Luke 22:19
- Jesus Himself told us why we are to observe the Lord's Supper.
- It is to be in remembrance of Him.
- We tend to focus solely on the events following that night but Jesus tells us to observe this in remembrance of Him.
- He also doesn't tell us how often it should be done. He simply says "as often as you do it".

What does it cause us to do?

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

1) Proclamation of His death

- This is a hearkening back to what Christ did for us on the cross.
- By our obedience to Him in this way we proclaim about His death as well as our faith in Him.

2) Look inwardly

- We are told that we are not to partake of this unworthily.
- If we do, we bring judgment upon ourselves.
- No one outside of Christ is worthy to partake of the Lord's Supper.
- It makes a mockery of His sacrifice.
- The Scriptures tell in Galatians 6:7 that God will not be mocked therefore anyone who partakes unworthily will be judged.
- We are commanded to examine ourselves and repent of any known sin.
- However, this command also allows us to put the focus on ourselves when in reality the focus should be on Christ.

3) Remember Christ

- It isn't simply about remembering the sacrifice that He made on our behalf but rather remembering who He is.
- Communion allows us to be in intimate fellowship, not with one another, but with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## What Communion is Not

- Some denominations insist that Christ is physically present in the sacrament by a process called transubstantiation.
- Transubstantiation is the process by which the Holy Spirit causes the bread and wine/juice to literally become the physical body and blood of Jesus within us after we've partaken.
- This is a gross misinterpretation and misapplication of the Scriptures.
- Jesus clearly tells us to do it in *remembrance* of Him.
- In the Gospels He holds us a physical piece of bread and a physical cup of wine.
- The apostles would've known that He was using symbolism.
- Communion does not absolve us of our sin nor does it save us.
- It is an act of obedience for the believer.
- It is also a means of grace in which the believer is in communion with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.