

# Last Supper

## COMMUNION

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Luke 22:19-20

- The Bible says that He took bread and gave each of them some and then said, *"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me". And He took wine and shared with them. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you"*

He told them several things --

---He wanted them to know that He was going to die a sacrificial death for sin, that it was going to be His blood that paid the blood sacrifice,

---He was to establish a new covenant and to replace the Old Covenant that the Jews had lived under for so long,

---He wanted them to remember this celebration feast and commemorate it in the future to remind followers of His sacrificial death for them.

**Remembering of the Last Supper did not end with the death of the twelve disciples.**

When Jesus said that He wanted them to do it to remember Him, it was a message to us also. Jesus desired that His followers continue to have a commemoration of the Lord's Supper to remind us of Christ's sacrificial death for our sins.

**It was given as a time to give thanks to God for sending Christ to die in our place.**

**In Matthew 26:29** we read Jesus' words to us where He clearly included us in this remembrance command and **He gave us a powerful promise for our future.**

*"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Jesus promised that we can see Him in Heaven with God if we accepted His gift of forgiveness for our sins.

## **1 Cor 11:23-32**

**23** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

**24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

**25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**27** Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

**28** A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

**29** For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

**30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

**31** But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

**32** When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. (NIV)

## **When we come to Communion—there are 4 areas that we look to:**

### **1. WE LOOK BACK** - "you proclaim the Lord's death" - YOU REMEMBER ME **(1 COR 11:26)**

First, we look back to the cross.

We are reminded of our Lord's sacrifice; how He gave himself unselfishly and completely, for the **remission of our sins and the wholeness of our body.**

#### **Because of Jesus' sacrifice—We are spirit, soul and body renewed!**

(In the Old Testament—the sacrifices of lambs just covered the sins of the people—no blood ever took the sins away)

The marvelous thing about this is that He did this **"while we were still sinners"** (Romans 5:8).

**Jesus was celebrating Passover with His disciples:  
(He was celebrating the event that took the Hebrews out of Egypt.)**

**There are some symbolic events that take place during this time:**

**The Hebrews took the blood of the lambs** that were offered as a sacrifice and put them over their doors so that they were protected from the destruction.

**Jesus' blood** (we are in a covenant with Him) today protects us from destruction

**In the Passover meal the Jews eat bitter herbs** to remind them of the sufferings that their people endured as slaves to Egypt.

**When Jesus** was on the cross suffering the guards **offered him bitter drink** to ease His suffering.

**In the Passover meal the Jews eat a lamb...But this lamb cannot have had any bones broken...**

**When Jesus was on the cross –he had two thieves on both side of him...it was getting late for the Jewish law...in order to speed up the death of Jesus and the thieves... the guards broke the legs of the thieves...but they pierced the side of Jesus...no bones were broken...He was the Lamb of God.**

**In the Passover meal...the Jews take the unleavened bread ...3 pieces—one on top of the other...they take the middle piece...break it in two...put one piece back in the middle and hide the other piece for three days and nights...**

**Jesus is the middle piece of the unleavened bread** that was taken away for three days and nights

## **2. WE LOOK WITHIN** -

**1 Corth. 11:28**

**"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."**

***Examine your motives, test your heart***

We look at ourselves: what do we see?

How are we living?

Are we striving for holiness?

Do we put Jesus first in our lives – are we totally committed to Him.

Let us truly examine ourselves, look deep into our hearts

(1 Corinthians 11:28, 29).

## **God wants us to acknowledge our sins and humbly ask for forgiveness.**

### **ILLUSTRATION - Self Evaluation**

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**State employment officials in Tucson, Arizona, posted an interesting sign over a full-length mirror. Directed to all job hunters, it read, "Would you hire this person?"**

**Self-evaluation** was what the apostle Paul called for in 1 Corinthians 11.

**Believers in Christ need to judge themselves**, he said, to avoid being judged by the Lord as unfit for His service.

In the Corinthian church, the "appearance problem" was especially serious.

Those Christians "looked" awful.

They were actually getting drunk and quarreling among themselves while going through the motions of celebrating the Lord's Supper.

So Paul said, in effect, "Look at yourselves. What a mess! If you don't get your lives straightened out, the Lord will have to do it for you."

### **3. WE LOOK AROUND -**

"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." (1 COR 10:17)

Because there is one loaf, **our many-ness** becomes **one-ness**—Christ doesn't become fragmented in us. Rather, **we become unified in him.** **We don't reduce Christ to what we are; he raises us to what he is.** That's basically what happened even in old Israel—those who ate the sacrifices offered on God's altar entered into God's action at the altar.(Message)

Luke's gospel records a **dispute that took place at this dinner** among a few of His disciples as to which of them was the greatest.

Jesus had anticipated the biggest event ever was about to take place in history and His disciple had still not grasped the significance of His words.

**He had just told them that he was having a last meal with them before His death and they are arguing about who is going to be the greatest in His kingdom!**

So Jesus taught them a lesson on serving, "For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:27-30). Again with His words, He gave more than one major message:

His kingdom was not going to be of this world and in order to be great in His kingdom, **they needed to learn how to serve.**

**JOHN 13:12** —Jesus washes the feet of the disciples

*<sup>12</sup> So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

The third look is to the brothers and sisters around us – we give thanks to God for our Christian family.

No man is an island, we need one another.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

***9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!***

***11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.***

**Proverbs 27:17:**

***"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."***

**4. WE LOOK AHEAD - "until he comes" (1 COR 11:26)**

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The fourth look is to the future.

Are we looking forward to the time when He will come again and we will have Communion with our Lord in His kingdom? (Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:26).

Are we looking forward to His coming with joy or with fear?

ILLUSTRATION

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Someone once asked Dwight L. Moody, "If you knew the Lord would return tonight, how would you spend the rest of the day?" Mr. Moody replied without hesitation, "I wouldn't do anything different than I do every day." (As quoted by Chlo Lillie in AT HIS TABLE – Standard Publishing Company)

How wonderful if we all could say that! Then we could, with confidence, pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20). \*\*\*