

The Message and Meaning of the Lord's Supper **1 Corinthians 11:23-34 (7/12/09 AM)**

Paul calls it "the Lord's Supper" (20), "the Lord's Table"

(1 Corinthians 10:21), "communion" (1 Corinthians 10:16)

It is called by some the Eucharist from the Greek word translated "when He had given thanks" (24). Jesus initiated the Lord's

Supper during the Last Supper as He celebrated the Passover with His disciples in the upper room. God has historically given His people symbols to use in their worship.

Christ Intended for This Celebration to Be a Symbolic Reminder that Provides Symbols that Convey the _____ they Represent

1. The Lord's Supper Is a Remembrance (24-25)

A Remembrance of Jesus

"...do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19)

It is an active calling to mind of Jesus and His death on the cross.

• **Provides a significant moment of _____ with the risen Jesus**

Christ lovingly commands His church to observe a regular time of fellowship with Him.

The Lord's Supper Is Important to _____ and So Should Be Important to Me

2. The Lord's Supper Is a Representation (23-26)

Symbolic not Sacramental

The elements in and of themselves do not provide eternal life but picture Christ who does provide eternal life, Ephesians 2:8-9.

• **The bread represents His _____**

The ancient church treated the moment of taking the elements with utmost reverence. The elements are not actually the body of Jesus. In reacting to the error we have lost something of the reverence.

We remember the crown of thorns, the nail scarred hands and feet, and the spear wound in His side. We remember His scourging and His humiliation, 1 Peter 3:18.

The Only _____ in Heaven Will Be the Ones Jesus Bears

• **The cup represents His _____**

The Lord's Supper illustrates the basis of our salvation which is the shed blood of Christ which includes his suffering, death, burial and resurrection. Paul declares that the Lord's Supper is a continual proclamation of the Gospel (26).

Remission is a dismissal, a release, a sending away, a putting away. It always follows the execution of the penalty, Matthew 26:28. Redemption means deliverance by the paying of a price, Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:13.

Remission Is Only Made Possible by

3. The Lord's Supper Is Recognition (27-32)

A Moment for Self Evaluation

- **A solemn** _____

(27) "...in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

This means to come with an attitude not worthy of Christ. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their divisive spirit in their congregation (17-22). Harboring a bitter unforgiving spirit would be an unworthy manner. It is hypocritical to celebrate God's forgiveness while denying someone else forgiveness. To come with unrepentant sin in our lives would be unworthy of the Lord's Supper.

(29) "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

Chastisement or discipline is a sign of God's love, Hebrews 12:6.

The Lord's Supper Is Either a Place of Confession or an Occasion for _____

- **A serious** _____

(28) "But let a man examine himself, (31) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."

The word "examine" means to test or to prove. The preparation for the Lord's Supper is a self testing. We need to pray the prayers of David, Psalm 26:2, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me"

Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me". Is there a sin to confess? Is there a someone to forgive or ask forgiveness of? Is there a something hindering my walk with God?

The Lord's Supper Is a Special Moment of _____
Worship