

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-33

Introduction: There are 5 words that help us understand the meaning of Lord's Supper. The words are:

1. **Expression... verses 23-25... of remembrance & love for Jesus**

How could any of us forget the tragedy of 9-11? We cannot forget it. When we hear it, we immediately remember what happened on that day. We have even built a memorial to those who died there. Why do we need a memorial? Because we have a tendency to forget.

2. **Explanation... verse 26**

Every time we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are preaching a subtle sermon. **1 Cor. 11:26** *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.* What a subtle sermon it is. Don't be like the little boy who said, "Oh, boy, we're having the Lord's Supper today. There won't be any preaching!" He missed the point; the whole Lord's Supper is a sermon, and we all preach it together.

3. **Examination... verses 27-32**

This is an invitation for us to examine ourselves. We must not partake of it *unworthily*, i.e. in an unworthy manner... None of us are worthy, but we want to be cleansed of sin that we might take it in a worthy manner.

4. **Expectation... verse 26... ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we are demonstrating that we expect the Lord Jesus Christ to come again. We are looking for the coming of Christ, and so we partake of this supper.

5. **Encouragement... verse 33**

There was a particular problem that these folks had - they were more concerned about themselves than they were about their brothers and sisters..

5 times in ch. 11 (vs. 17-18, 20, 33-34) Paul uses the word 'together.'

Sometimes people think that the Lord's Supper is something you can do by yourself. I don't think so. I think you have to do it with others, with other believers. We're to be together to *encourage* each other. It's a time when we wrap our arms around each other and say, "We are the Body of Christ. We who are gathered here this day are here because Jesus has made an impact on our lives, and we celebrate and honor the Lord together."

ALTAR CALL / INVITATION (Please take your places)

We come now to observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, given to us to celebrate in memory of His broken body and shed blood.

• **Scripture: Read Luke 22:7-22**

It is said that on the night before He was betrayed, at the conclusion of the feast of the Passover which He and his disciples were celebrating, He took bread and blessed it, brake it, and gave to His disciples and said, "This is my body, which is given for you."

(Break bread, hand plates to those helping distribute to people. Distribute bread and ask people to hold bread in their hand until all have been served.)

• **Prayer for the Bread**

After prayer when the bread is in the hands of all, say: "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. (Lk. 22:19) Take, eat; this is my body." – Matt. 26:26

• **Scripture: Read Luke 22:7-22**

****NOW THE CUP - After the bread is taken, then say:** On that same night our Lord took the cup and blessed it, gave to His disciples and said, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me"

(Take juice, hand plates to those helping distribute to people. Distribute juice and ask people to hold cups in their hand until all have been waited upon.)

• **Prayer for the Juice**

After prayer when the cups are in the hands of all, say: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."

After our Lord and His disciples ate the bread and drank the fruit of the vine, celebrating the Last Supper, it is said, "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives." (Mark 14:26)

Let's now sing a hymn following this example of our Lord and thus conclude the service!

Lord's Supper Service 2018

Remember:

The Lord's Supper is an "*Ordinance*"--not a sacrament. It is a religious custom, not a means of attaining grace or favor with God. Jesus gave the church 2 ordinances... the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

There are 3 basic ways that churches observe the Lord's Supper. One way is called "***Closed Communion***", in this, the church only allows those who are members in good standing to participate in the observance.

A second method is that of "***Open Communion***". In this, everyone present is encouraged to partake in the observance of the Lord's Supper.

What we practice at Faith Baptist Church is the third method known as "***Close Communion***". In this method all present are invited to partake, but only after they have been warned of the consequences of partaking in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. Everyone present is urged to practice self-examination and then participate in close communion with the Lord. Remember: