



4/7/2024

The Lord's Table

Student Notes

Today we will have the Lord's Table. We are not celebrating the Passover, as Israel did. We are not remembering when we came out of Egypt; that was not us.

In 1 Corinthians 11:20-34, the apostle Paul writes to correct the "ungodly labor" of the Corinthians in connection to the Lord's Table. We will not go over the corrective part of that doctrine today, but we will look at what the Lord Jesus gave to Paul concerning the Lord's Table, which he in turn gave to the Corinthian assembly.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

As we take the Lord's Table together, there are two main issues that ought to be in our minds; 1) that this is a communion of the people in this assembly and 2) a showing of the Lord's death (that is, what His death accomplished).

While it is true that by the cross, Satan was caught in his own craftiness, and defeated, neither the practice (corporate communion) nor the elements (the bread and cup) of the Lord's Table are focused on that.

Practice: Corporate Communion

Elements: Bread & Cup

That we practice this corporately points to our fellowship and unity. That Jesus died on the cross points to the two-fold provision He made for us.

Practice: Corporate Communion

Elements: Bread & Cup
Body & Blood

Let's talk about the actual practice of the Lord's Table. Notice that the instruction is not for people to do this at home, by themselves, but for the whole assembly to come together and do this as a body.

Why? Because this is a communion between the members of the assembly. The assembly is a picture of the entire body of Christ, functioning as a single body. The communion aspect of the Lord's Table emphasizes the love, unity and fellowship we are meant to have as members together of Christ's body.

Practice: Corporate Communion
Intimacy of Fellowship

Elements: Bread & Cup
Body & Blood

We form many bonds in our lives. We bond naturally with family members, with the one we marry and with our children. We often bond with schoolmates, our fellows in the military, with those we work with, and with the friends we make.

But did you know, the greatest and closest of these kinds of relationships is meant to be the relationship we have "in Christ," with others who have trusted Him as Savior? They are our brothers and sisters, not in the flesh, but in the spirit. It is truly meant to be a family unit with God as our Father and the Lord Jesus as our kinsman, and them as close siblings.

We are to see each other as important parts of a whole. As we assemble together, we learn the sonship skills and practice the doctrine together, as a microcosm of the entire body of Christ in the heavenly places. These are the people we will spend eternity with and we are all preparing for the greatest job we will ever have.

God designed the assembly to foster a love, unity, and fellowship that exceeds all others. If that is not true for us, then we have work to do.

The Lord's Table is meant to make us pause and think about our unity with and commitment to our fellow members. Are we truly putting the doctrine to work in connection with them? Are we thinking about each other the way we ought to? Are we actively strengthening the bonds between us?

(While many people encouraged me after Billie died, let me give an example: Clifford and Rachel taking me flying after Billie passed. That really meant something.)

Little things matter, but we need to do them with purpose.

This is the communion aspect of the Lord's Table. This is why we do this when we come together and not separately in our homes. The Lord's Table reminds us we are to be "fitly framed together" and "members one of another." So, look around the room as you do this and think; we are in this together. We have a common, eternal purpose and we are supposed to value and esteem each other on that basis. Not our personalities or our hobbies, but because of Christ and His purpose with us.

Lastly, the Lord's Table is directly connected with the New Covenant. It is true that, as members of the body of Christ, we are not under any covenant. However, the Lord God made a provision to extend the benefits of the New Covenant to whomsoever He wants, even those who are not directly covenanted with.

In this Dispensation of Grace, God has extended to us the benefits of the New Covenant. And what are those benefits? There are two: a perfect justification and a perfect sanctification.

Practice: Corporate Communion
Intimacy of Fellowship

Elements: Bread & Cup
Body & Blood
Sanctification & Justification

In response to our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross, God placed us "in Christ" where we automatically received a perfect justification and perfect sanctification.

As we take the cup, we are reminded of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus which provided for our justification. It is by this we are forgiven, we are made righteous, we are "at one" with God.

As we take the bread, we are reminded of the broken body of the Lord Jesus which provided for our sanctification. It is by this that we are dead to sin, alive unto God and sons of God.

These are the necessary elements which make us spiritually fit to be utilized by God in His plan and purpose for the body of Christ.

The Lord's Table is the reminder of this spiritual fitness and by taking it, we show the transforming work (JUFL/SUFL) which the Lord accomplished in us, by His death.

Our natural response to having been given justification and sanctification is what?
Thankfulness, and what else?

A determination to live out of our justification unto eternal life (JUFL) and sanctification unto functional life (SUFL) on a daily basis?

Anything else? A recommitment to being the son or daughter God created us to be?

By the Lord's Table, we commune with those who God means for us to be closest to, while we corporately celebrate the great spiritual benefit of being JUFL and SUFL by the death of Jesus and His shed blood.

Now, with those things in our minds, let's perform the Lord's Table.