

The Lord's Supper: A Glorious Occasion
1 Corinthians 11:23-28

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Text: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ gave thanks, 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 also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the 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 way will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ So a man should examine himself; in this way he should eat the bread and drink from the cup.

Introduction: Today we have the opportunity to participate in the Lord's Supper. The supper is a moving illustration of the sacrifice that Christ has made for us. Before we receive the supper this morning, consider just a few things with me. First, I want to just remind us of our church's view of the Lord's Supper.

Other Views Concerning the Lord's Supper

1. Transubstantiation—This view is held exclusively by the Roman Catholic Church. This means that when a Priest pronounces the words of consecration, the bread and wine actually become (not represent) the body and blood of Jesus. It is important to note in this view that the change is not in the chemistry. In other words, the bread retains the shape, texture, and taste of bread. However, the belief is that what the bread essentially is has been changed.
2. Consubstantiation—This was the view of Martin Luther, although, he did not use this term. This is the view that while the elements themselves do not change, the presence of Christ is in the elements. So, along with the elements, one receives the real presence of Jesus. (Thus the reason for the prefix con—"con" as a prefix gives the meaning of "together.")

What is the Baptist view?

Like Baptism, we believe in a symbolic view of the Lord's Supper.

So, in sum, we believe that...

1. The elements are symbolic of Jesus, not literal.
2. We participate in this observance to remind ourselves of grace, not receive grace.

In participating in the Lord's Supper . . .

We have the occasion to adore Jesus.

Ultimately, the most important thing about the Lord's Supper is that we have the occasion in a tangible way to worship Jesus. In a tangible way, we are brought face to face with the reality of our sin and His sacrifice. We are brought face to face with the reality that He suffered in His body, spilled His blood, gave His life in death so that we might have life. We worship.

We have the occasion to affirm our beliefs.

Just as in baptism, the Lord's Supper is an affirmation of our beliefs. Again, this is why only believers should share in this table.

We have the occasion to assess our relationship to Jesus.

We examine ourselves. Is there genuine belief? Has there been betrayal?

We have the occasion to announce again the death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

We are all the preachers today.