

The Lord's Supper

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

- Acts 2:42
Acts 4:12
1 Corinthians 11:26

Purpose: To take a Biblical look at the Lord's Supper and where God places it in the plan for His New Testament Church today

A. Why Partake of the Lord's Supper?

1. Read about the Passover in Exodus 12:1-30. The Passover was the number one feast for the Jews of the Old Testament. The Passover was a memorial feast established by God. What was the Passover Feast (memorial) to remind the Jews of?
2. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at the Passover Feast. The Lord's Supper meal of the New Testament is a memorial meal like the Passover meal of the Old Testament. Read Matthew 26:17-30 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. According to these Scriptures, what is a Christian to remember when partaking of the Lord's Supper?

Read the following illustration: When the very famous and wealthy American businessman, Howard Hughes, died, he was honored in Las Vegas at his Desert Inn Casino and Hotel in a very unique way. For sixty seconds the pit bosses held their dice at the crap tables, the roulette wheels were stopped, the card dealers held all the decks and the entire casino went silent. Then a man at the Desert Inn yelled, "Okay, he had his minute. Let's deal 'em." Howard Hughes was afforded sixty seconds of respect. Then he was forgotten.

Jesus instituted a memorial meal 2,000 years ago and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ continue to partake of the covenant meal today.

Caution: Respect, remembrance and discipleship of Jesus must last longer than a sixty second Lord's Supper time.

3. How much respect, remembrance and discipleship did I give to Jesus today?
Psalm 63:1; 119:11, Luke 9:23, Galatians 2:20
4. Read Acts 2:42. What did the new Christians continue to devote themselves to?

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5. Do you think devoting yourself to the four areas mentioned in Acts 2:42 is important to your successful discipleship of Jesus? Why or why not? (Provide explanations for each of the four areas.)

- a) Apostles' teaching (doctrine)
- b) Fellowship
- c) Breaking of bread (Lord's Supper)
- d) Prayer

B) Who partakes of the Lord's Supper?

1. Look at the Scriptures listed below. Who do we find partaking of the Lord's Supper in each?

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| a) Matthew 26:26-29: | d) 1 Corinthians 10:14-22: |
| b) Mark 14:22-25: | e) 1 Corinthians 11:23-32: |
| c) Luke 22:19-20: | f) Acts 2:42: |
| | g) Acts 20:7: |

2. Beginning with the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the day the New Testament Church was birthed, we find NO example in Scripture of anyone other than a New Testament Christian partaking of the Lord's Supper. Not even an inference from Acts 2:38 through the end of the Bible. Why do you think that is the case? (Hint: read Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:19-25)

3. Read Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 10:14-17. Based on these Scriptures do you think the Lord's Supper was designed to be taken alone, anywhere you might be or was it designed to be participated in together? As a group, body, congregation?

4. The King James Version translates 1 Corinthians 10:16 like this, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" What is the definition of the word *communion*? What do you think is significant about the definition of the word *communion* as it relates to the Lord's Supper?

(The Lord's Supper Continued)

C. When to partake of the Lord's Supper

Acts 20:7 gives an example to us of when the early Church gathered to partake of the Lord's Supper. When did they meet?

D. Conclusion

Review the facts we have learned from Scripture about the Lord's Supper and its place in the Church today.

1. Jesus is the one who established His Supper; hence the name "Lord's Supper." (Matthew 26:17-30)
2. Jesus established the Lord's Supper as a memorial. It is to be taken in remembrance of Jesus. Jesus died for man's sin to restore fellowship between man and God. The Lord's Supper is also a celebration of hope that encourages us to anticipate our soon returning Savior, Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
3. We see the New Testament example (precedent) is for Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7)
4. We find only Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 10:11, Acts 2:12, Acts 20:7)
5. We find God's people assembled together partaking of the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 10:14-17)

Remember: Fellowship with God's people is important to proper discipleship of Jesus Christ. Communion, by definition, demands participation.

6. We find Christians made the Lord's Supper a priority. They devoted themselves to it. (Acts 2:42)

Question: Is it possible to follow Jesus as His disciple if we forget or neglect the Lord's Supper or participate in it in an unworthy manner?

Write out Philippians 3:14: