

# Why Not Beef Jerky and Sweet Tea?

I was having a conversation recently and explaining this series I wanted to do on “Why?”. In the course of the conversation I was talking about questions people why about in religious matters. Jokingly the question was “Why Not Beef Jerky for the Lord’s Supper?”. Thinking a little more about we got a laugh about but now I wanted to turn in into an article for us to consider.

Think about this, it has been requested before maybe not to this extreme level but “Why is it bread and fruit of the vine?” I know people would like to offer substitutions on several things and believe that it is an acceptable practice. With that being said I love beef jerky, and sweet tea can we just use that as an alternative for the Lord Supper?

Consider **Luke 22:14-23**, Jesus in His final hours before he was betrayed and taken to be hung on the cross ate the Passover with his disciples. Jesus is telling His disciples once again of things he must suffer, He tells them again that He will no longer eat of this until they partake in the Father’s kingdom. There are things to fulfilled with what is about to happen to Jesus. He must die on the cross as an offering for our sins (**Hebrews 9:27-28**).

In this he institutes the Lord supper. He took the bread, prayed and broke the bread and the disciples took it. Jesus said the bread represents His body that would be offered for us. Partake of it and do it in remembrance of Jesus. That is to say to remember the body that had to be given. The body that had to be beaten, the body that had to be struck, the body that had to hang on the cross, the body that was given as a sacrifice for sins. Jesus wants his disciples (Christians as we now know them) to partake and always remember the body that God gave and was freely given for us.

Continuing with this supper, he took the cup, and had it divided among them. He prayed, and the disciples took it. Jesus said the cup represents His blood that would be offered for us. Partake of it and do it in remembrance of Jesus. It is to remember the blood the cleanses us from sin (**I John 1:7**). Blood had to be shed (**Hebrews 9:15-16**), His side was pierced, and blood and water came out (**John 19:14**), shedding of blood is understood as death (**Hebrews 9:22-28**). There is only one that offers remission of sins through His blood shed and that is Jesus, and we remember that by partaking of the fruit of the vine.

These are the emblems we are to use by example and command. In **I Corinthians 11:23-26** again we see Jesus took two things because of the Passover feast. He took unleavened bread and fruit of the vine and said, “Partake of this in remembrance of me.” In so doing we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes again. We partake until God sends His Son again to this world (**Matthew 24:42-44**). In **I Corinthians 10:16-17** we have even further instruction of the contents we use to partake and remember the death of Jesus. The cup does it represent the blood of Jesus? The bread does it represent the body of Jesus? The answer is yes to both!

Can we substitute these emblems of the Lord Supper for anything else like beef jerky and sweet tea? The answer is no. Any types of substitutions for this is not what we see by example from Jesus and the disciples or the commands. What we see is that Jesus took bread and fruit of the vine which we conclude is grapes due to the area and also grapes growing on a vine. We honor and remember Jesus in what he has done in giving His life on the cross. These elements of the Lord Supper are what is chosen and we trust in it through the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). **Daniel N. Sanders**