

Lesson Eighteen

What Does the Bible Teach Concerning the Holy Communion?

1. What is the Sacrament of the Altar, or the Lord's Supper?

Also called: The Eucharist and The Last Supper.

Matthew 26:26 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Mark 14:22 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." 23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.*

Luke 22:19 *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

1 Corinthians 11:23 *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he 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 took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

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| a) <u>Forgiveness / Confession of sin</u> | d) <u>Strength to live in God's Word</u> |
| b) <u>Fellowship w/God and Man</u> | e) <u>Thanks worship and adoration Humility with saints in heaven and on earth.</u> |
| c) <u>Strengthening of faith</u> | f) <u>Participation in the Real Presence of Christ</u> |

2. Why do we teach the real presence of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion?

Luke 22:19,20 The word that Christ uses is "is My body and Blood."

1 Corinthians 10:16 this is the body and blood within which we participate.

1 Corinthians 11:27 this is the body and blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:29 Paul says that the Real Presence must be recognized in the bread and wine.

3. Are the bread and wine changed into the body and the blood of Jesus?

1 Corinthians 11:26 No. it is received by faith as such. In addition, Jesus has not returned yet. That is a future action.

4. Christ gave us the Holy Communion for the benefit of our spiritual lives. What are the blessings of this sacrament?

Matthew 26:28 forgiveness of sins – the means of grace.

2 Corinthians 5:17 the Old man has dies and the new man lives.

5. Receiving the Lord's Supper is a sacred act. What should we do before receiving the body and blood of Christ?

1 Corinthians 11:28, 29 examine yourself spiritually.

We should ask ourselves various questions before communing. There are three important ones.

a) Am I truly repentant of my sins (what does this presuppose?)

b) Do I believe in Christ as my Savior (vicarious satisfaction?)

c) Do we have the intention, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to amend our sinful lives?

6. Who should not participate in the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:28, 29 Those who are not repentant for their sins.

Matthew 5:23, 24 Those who cannot forgive others. (not the feeling of forgiveness by the forensic act of forgiveness.

Acts 2:42 Those not baptized and who do not confess Christ as savior. (This is for the Christian.)

7. Why should we receive the Lord's Supper often?

Luke 22:19 Jesus said to do so often.

Matthew 26:27, 28 We need forgiveness and encouragement and fellowship.

Matthew 11:28 Forgiveness brings reconciliation and peace to our lives.

Review

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament. Why?

1. Commanded by God (instituted) 2. Elements (bread and wine)

3. It offers forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

B: True/False

1) T Only the believing communicants receive the body and blood of Christ.

2) F The bread and wine change into the body and blood of Christ.

3) T We should examine ourselves before participating in the Lord's Supper.

4) T Those weak in faith should participate in the Lord's Supper.

5) T All of the believing communicants receive the forgiveness of sins.

C: What constitutes an unworthy communicant.

D: In the Lord's Supper we receive: (check the appropriate boxes.)

bread wine body blood

E. The two major benefits of Communion are:

1) forgiveness of sins (vertical) 2) Unity of faith (horizontal)