

## Overview:

The Lord's Supper (also called Communion or breaking bread) is one of only two rituals Jesus asked the Church to practice while He is gone. Communion is the completed picture of the Passover supper after which it was patterned. Communion also symbolizes the first three doctrines of Salvation in our lives

## Outline

### I. The Lord's Supper is the fulfillment of the Old

#### Testament Passover

- A. Exodus 12:1-11 (the requirements)
- B. Leviticus 23:4-8 (evening before yeast)
- C. Matthew 26:1-2 (Passover in 2 days)
- D. Matthew 26:17-20 (Passover prep.)
- E. Matthew 26:26-29 (Last Supper)
- F. Mark 14:22-26 (Last Supper)
- G. Luke 22:13-20 (Last Supper)

### II. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the first three doctrines of salvation in our lives

1. Justification
2. Atonement
3. Redemption

### III. The early church continued the practice of the Lord's Supper

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (spiritual food)
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:15-17 (participation)
- C. 1 Corinthians 11:20-32 (Lord's table)
- D. Jude 1:12 (Love feasts)

### IV. Questions concerning Communion

- A. Views on the presence of the Body and Blood
  1. Catholic Transubstantiation (the bread actually turns into the literal body of Christ)
    - a. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (Paul understood as symbolic)
    - b. Matthew 26:26-29 (Jesus literal body was holding the bread)
  2. Lutheran Consubstantiation (The Body of Christ is "with" the bread)
    - a. One of Luther's less brilliant ideas.
    - b. "con" means "with"
  3. Reformed "Warmth of the Sun"
  4. Zwingli (Anabaptist) Symbolic
- B. Should only a pastor or priest administer Communion?
  1. Great Commission Matt. 28:18-20
  2. Baptism 1 Corinthians 1:14-17
  3. All believers are priests 1 Peter 2:9
- C. The unleavened bread symbolizes Jesus' sinless life
  1. Feast of Unleavened Bread
  2. Paul refers to it 1 Corinthians 5:8
  3. symbol of sin 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
  4. symbol of false teaching Matt. 16:6
- D. The wine (grape juice) symbolizes His shed blood
  1. Blood must be shed Leviticus 1:3-9
  2. Jesus said "poured out" Matt. 26:28

3. Jesus prayed twice separating the elements

### Conclusion:

Communion is a very simple ritual picturing the Lord's death in our place. It is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover and expresses the concepts of Justification, Atonement and Redemption. We should take care to insure the clear symbolism is accurately portrayed in our practice of the Lord's Supper.

## Supporting Material:

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### Verses:

**Exodus 12:1-11** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, this month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

**Leviticus 23:4-8** These are the LORD's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The LORD's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the LORD by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."

**Matthew 26:1-2** When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away – and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

**Matthew 26:17-20** On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He replied, "God into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

**Matthew 26:26-29** 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." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

**1 Corinthians 10:1-4** For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

**1 Corinthians 10:15-17** I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, for we all partake of the one loaf.

**1 Corinthians 11:20-32** When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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." 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." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

**Jude 1:12** These men are blemishes at your love feast, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead.

**Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**1 Corinthians 1:14-17** I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**1 Corinthians 5:6-8** Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

**Matthew 16:6** Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

**Matthew 26:28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.