

The Lord's Supper



514) What is the Lord's Supper?

- A. The Lord's Supper is a spiritual ceremony or sacrament where the local body gathers together to remember Christ's sacrifice for us. We do this by eating a small portion of bread, which represents His broken body and drink a small cup of wine to represent His shed blood.
- B. In this manner, the church shares communion with our Lord and each member of the body of Christ.

"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.'"

LUKE 22:19-20 NIV

515) What does the word "communion" mean?

- A. "Communion" means the sharing of thoughts or feelings. It is the sharing of our life through close natural and spiritual fellowship with one another.
- B. We can "commune" with our Lord Jesus or with another member of the body of Christ in many different ways. The most intimate communion we can have with each other is sharing the Lord's Supper.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (communion; KJV) of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2COR 13:14 NIV

516) How is the Lord's Supper like the Passover meal Israel ate before they fled Egypt?

- A. Israel gathered together to eat the Passover lamb as the death angel was passing over the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh realized that his refusal to release the children of Israel resulted in the death of all the first born males in his nation, he let them go. After they had escaped the slavery of Egypt, God required the children of Israel to celebrate this great deliverance of the Passover once a year. This was required so they would never forget what the Lord had done for them.

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- B. Jesus instituted the Last Supper at a Passover celebration. He served the disciples His "body" and "blood" for He was the Passover lamb. As a result of His death and resurrection, we pass from bondage into life and become partakers of the New Covenant. Jesus asked the Church to share this communion so we might never forget what He won for us.

"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."

1COR 5:7 NIV

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

COL 1:13-14 NIV

"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."

LUKE 22:19 NIV

517) Why do we partake of the Lord's Supper?

- A. As an individual, we are reaffirming our entrance into the New Covenant. We meditate on what the Lord did for us when His body was broken and His blood shed for us.
1. Taking communion is remembering and renewing our commitment to Christ much like a couple, married 25 years, will renew their marriage vows.

"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."

LUKE 22:19-20 NIV

"Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. [56] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. [57] Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me."

JOHN 6:53-57 NIV

- B. As a part of the Body of Christ, we reaffirm our union, one with another.
1. We are reminded of our unity as we share communion together.

"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? [17] Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."

1COR 10:16-17 NIV

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are

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many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. [13] For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

1COR 12:12-13 NIV

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

EPH 5:30 KJV

C. We were commanded to regularly partake of this communion by Jesus.

"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."

LUKE 22:19 NIV

"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." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1COR 11:23-26 NIV

518) Who can partake of the Lord's Supper?

- A. Any born again believer can partake of communion.
- B. Since communion commemorates our new birth, only those who have experienced new birth can partake.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

1COR 11:24 KJV

519) Are there any further restrictions?

- A. Before we partake of communion, we need to prepare our heart. Communion is a serious, spiritual time in God's presence and is not to be taken lightly.
 - 1. If there is any unconfessed sin, it should be dealt with before communion.
 - 2. If any two saints are at odds they need to settle their dispute before they partake of communion.
- B. The penalty for those who treat the communion of the Lord carelessly can be very severe. Sickness and even death can result when we fail to recognize (discern KJV) the body of Christ (which includes our brothers and sisters in Christ).

"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. [28] A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. [29] For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. [30] That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have

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fallen asleep."

1COR 11:27-30 NIV

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

MATT 5:23-24 NIV

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

MARK 11:25 NIV

520) What can take place during the Lord's Supper?

- A. Healing can take place during communion.
 - 1. Just as the careless participation in communion can bring sickness and even premature death, careful, thoughtful participation can bring healing.
 - 2. If we hold unforgiveness towards a brother, we must repent before partaking in communion. We will then be able to receive the healing of the Lord during communion.
- B. When Israel left the bondage of Egypt after eating the Passover meal they all left healthy and strengthened.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

ISA 53:5 NIV

"He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered."

PSA 105:37 NIV

521) Is Jesus present in the communion?

- A. Yes. We are not eating His actual flesh and drinking His actual blood during communion, but He is spiritually present.
- B. His presence is just as real in communion as it is when we repent and ask Him into our hearts, when we enter the waters of baptism, and when the prophetic word is spoken over our life.

"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."

MATT 26:26-28 NIV

"Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

JOHN 14:19-20 NIV

"Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood

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has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. [56] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. [57] Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. [58] This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

JOHN 6:53-58 NIV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 34

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Explain what the word "communion" means.

- 2) Explain why we partake of the Last Supper.

- 3) State two restrictions before we partake of communion.

- 4) What can take place while taking communion?
