

DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Message 25: **Lord's Supper**: Declaring the Gospel in Communion

Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV)

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

"Take, eat; this is my body."

²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

"Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."* ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"There can be no doubt about the death of Christ, because through long ages all history bears record that Christian men and women have met together, and have eaten bread, and have drunk wine, to keep up the memory of his sufferings and death. This is better than if there had been a statue erected, or than if a document had been written, or than if a brass tablet had been inscribed."

- Charles Spurgeon

Doctrine of the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is a reminder of what Jesus did in the past, a symbol of our present relationship with Him, and a promise of what He will do in the future.

Food and Fellowship with God

From Genesis to Revelation, God's aim has been to bring His people into fellowship with Himself, and one of the great joys of experiencing that fellowship is the fact we can eat and drink in the presence of the Lord.

Exodus 24:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel.

*There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; **they beheld God, and ate and drank.***

Deuteronomy 14:23-26 (ESV)

²³ And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. ²⁴ And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there, ²⁵ then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses ²⁶ and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And **you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.**

Revelation 19:9 (ESV)

⁹ And the angel said to me, *"Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to **the marriage supper of the Lamb.**"* And he said to me, *"These are the true words of God."*

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

1. _____

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we symbolize the death of Jesus:

The bread ...

The cup ...

In this way, our participation is also **proclamation**:

1 Corinthians 11:26 (ESV)

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death** until he comes.

2. The _____ of His Death

Jesus commanded His disciples to "Take, eat; this is my body" (Matt 26:26). As we individually take the bread and drink from the cup for ourselves, we are giving testimony of the benefits we have received by and through Jesus' sacrifice. He has saved *me*. *My sins are forgiven. I am received by God. I have fellowship with the Heavenly Father. I will one day be at His table ...*

3. _____

Just as ordinary food nourishes our physical bodies, so does Christ nourish our spiritual selves when we honor his death and participate in His Supper.

John 6:53-57 (ESV)

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me**, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever **feeds on me**, he also will live because of me.

4. _____

When we participate in The Lord's Supper, we are demonstrating the essential unity we have as Christians because of the atoning work of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, **we who are many are one body**, for we all partake of the one bread.

When I participate in the Lord's Supper ...

I remember that He died for me ...

I participate in the benefits of His death ...

I receive spiritual nourishment ...

I am joined in unity with all other believers

3 Affirmations of the Lord's Supper

Christ's _____ is affirmed.

All the _____ reserved for me are affirmed.

_____ in Jesus Christ is affirmed.