

Partaking of the Lord's Supper on the First Day of the Week

Introduction:

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (LS) the night He was betrayed. The Lord explained to His disciples that the bread represented His body and the fruit of the vine His blood (cf. Matt. 26:26-29). Later, we find the disciples partaking of this supper on the first day of every week as they assembled to worship (cf. Acts 20:7). Through time, some brethren polluted the Lord's Supper by partaking of it in a manner that Jesus did not authorize (I Cor. 11:20-22). The apostle Paul refocuses the Corinthian's duty as pertains to the Lord's Supper at I Corinthians 11:23-34. This lesson shall examine the Lord's Supper by way of reminder so that neither you nor I loose our focus as to why we partake every first day of the week.

- I. This do in Remembrance of Me (I Cor. 11:23-25):**
 - A.** Paul's statement to the Corinthians represents a direct command!
 - B.** The un-leaven bread represents the body of Christ.
 - C.** The fruit of the vine represents Christ blood.
 - D.** When I partake of the LS, I am to consider Christ:
 - 1.** He bore the shame of my sin on the cross (Isa. 53:5-11; I Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:27-28).
 - 2.** His sacrifice was for the redemption of my sins (cf. Gal. 1:3-5; 3:13-14; Col. 12:12-14).
 - E.** When I partake of the LS, I am to "proclaim the Lord's death till he come" (I Cor. 11:26).
- II. The Christian is to examine self before partaking of LS (I Cor. 11:27-34):**
 - A.** Do not partake in an "unworthy manner" (I Cor. 11:27).
 - B.** Let a man "prove himself" (I Cor. 11:28).
 - C.** Let the partaker "discern" the body of Christ (I Cor. 11:29).

Conclusion:

Jesus had instituted the Lord's Supper and has given a direct command to keep it. When the early church met, as recorded in Acts 20:7, we find the disciples partaking of the LS. One does not assemble with the saints and take the LS as some sort of snack or meal. The Corinthians were guilty of this and so Paul condemns them in I Corinthians 11. The Christian is to consider Christ's redemptive work when coming to the table of the Lord. The saint of God is to prove himself so that he properly discerns the body of Christ that was crucified on our behalf. The Lord's Supper is a serious time and one of the five acts of worship that the Lord desires that we do on the first day of the week.

