



WORSHIPPING THROUGH THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of his betrayal (*Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20*). At the end of the feast of the Passover, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples to eat. He said, "This is my body." He took a cup of the fruit of the vine, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples to drink. He said, "This is my blood."

It is plain Jesus did not mean the bread and wine were real flesh and blood. Jesus' real fleshly body with its blood was alive, sitting with them. He meant that the bread and wine represented his flesh and blood which he would soon offer in death. When you show a photograph of your child and say, "This is my child," you do not mean the photograph is your fleshly child. It represents the child. The bread and wine represent the flesh and blood of Jesus.

Paul told the church at Corinth how to eat the Lord's Supper properly (*I Corinthians 11:20-34*). These people had wrongly made the Lord's Supper a drunken feast where the rich ate and the poor sat hungry. Paul told them it was not to be a feast. They were to take the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus. It must be done in a "worthy manner" which means in the proper *way*. The proper *way* is to remember Jesus' death for our sins. Each person must examine himself. This means he must be sure he is feeling Christ's sacrifice in his heart, seriously remembering it. Those who do not "discern the Lord's body" (properly remember Jesus' sacrifice) will bring God's angry judgment on themselves. Taking the Lord's Supper should help one repent of his sins because remembering Christ's sacrifice shames him for his sinfulness. The Lord's Supper should make one look back to the cross and look forward to Jesus' coming.

The only thing Paul did not tell them was when to take the Lord's Supper (the church at Corinth already knew when). Since we want to be the church of the New Testament, we must ask one question. When did the New Testament church take it? *Act 20:6-7* tells us. Paul was traveling. He stopped at Troas. On the first day of the

week (Sunday) he met with the disciples. He knew he could meet with them then because it was their practice to meet on the first day of the week to break bread (practice, so he joined them. He thus gave this practice his apostolic approval.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did Jesus use the bread in giving the Lord's Supper?
2. How did Jesus use the wine in giving the Lord's Supper?
3. What does "this is my body" and "this is my blood" mean?
4. What is unleavened bread?
5. Why should the church use unleavened bread and grape wine?
6. What does "worthy manner" mean?
7. What does it mean to examine oneself?
8. What does "discern the Lord's body" mean?
9. When did the church in the New Testament take the Lord's Supper?