

The Lord's Supper: a picture of forgiveness

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

September 5, 2021

What are some different biblical terms for the Lord's Supper?

- Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20)
- The breaking of bread (Acts 2:42)
- Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- Eucharist = **Thanks** (Matt. 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23)

What are we doing during the Lord's Supper?

1. We are looking at Christ's **life**

"Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24)

2. We are looking at the **new** covenant

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness** of sins" (Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20).

"The **Spirit** gives life" (Jn 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6; Acts 13:38-39)

3. We are looking back at Christ's death

". . . you **proclaim** the Lord's death . . ." (1 Cor. 11:26)

- We are telling one another that "It is finished!" (John 19:30)
- We are **humbled** as He was in dying for us (Phil. 2:8)

4. We are looking forward to Christ's coming

". . . until He comes." (1 Cor. 11:26b)

We anticipate a joyful **reunion** with Christ (Matt. 26:29)

5. We are looking around at Christ's **people**

We partake together ; **each** is responsible (1 Cor. 11:28-29)

How do I receive Christ's forgiveness?

By **faith** alone

The Lord's Supper is not about pretending or play acting or a skit. The Lord Jesus Christ really is present in a way that is different from when we do not celebrate communion with Him and fellow believers by breaking bread and giving thanks.

How is Christ truly present with us during the Lord's Supper?

1. A real, physical presence (*literal*) Roman Catholic

When the priest blesses the elements during the mass, they are changed into the physical body and blood of Christ. This is called "transubstantiation" from trans + substance.

2. A real, practical presence (*mystical*) Lutheran

The Lutheran view is that after a prayer of consecration, Christ is present "in, with and under" the elements and thus conveys grace along with the bread and cup to all who participate.

3. A real, symbolic presence (*memorial*) Baptist

The Baptist view is that participation does not convey grace, but it does *display* God's grace to us. The bread and cup are symbols that remind us of what Christ has done for us.

4. A real, actual presence (*spiritual*) Presbyterian

The Presbyterian or Reformed view holds that the elements are not merely symbols, but an outward action of an inward faith.

5. A real, personal presence (*experiential*) Friends

The Friends or Quaker church observes a time of communion with the Spirit and each other without sharing any physical elements.

When Christ said "This is my body" what did he mean?

It was a figurative way of communicating since he was holding the bread and the cup while explaining the symbolism. He did not mean for them to eat his physical body and drink his blood. Earlier in John 6:35-36 and 47-48, Jesus used eating and drinking as metaphors for believing. Finally, the Passover was a symbolic meal and Jesus was giving new meaning to similar symbols.