

The Lord's Supper

John Isaac Edwards

Many are unaware of what the Bible teaches concerning the Lord's supper. It is important that we know about it, since it is a command of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:23-24).

Its Institution. There are four places where we may read of the institution of the Lord's supper: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. The Lord's supper was instituted by Jesus as He was eating the Passover with His apostles on the night of His betrayal.

Its Designations. The Lord's supper is spoken of different ways in the Bible.

Breaking of bread. Sometimes this expression has to do with eating meat for health as in Acts 27:35. Other times this phrase is used to indicate the Lord's supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7). The context must determine which is under discussion.

The Lord's table. Upon instituting the Lord's supper, Jesus said, “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom...” (Luke 22:29-30). This is the Lord's supper table in the Lord's church. Paul wrote, “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils” (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Communion. Paul asked the Corinthians, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:16). In taking the Lord's supper, we share with the Lord and with one another (Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 10:17).

The Lord's supper. Paul rebuked the Corinthians, “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20). This bread-eating and cup-drinking is not our own supper; it is *the Lord's supper!* Since it His supper, we need to respect what the Lord has revealed about it!

It needs to be observed that the Lord's supper is never called the “eucharist” or a “sacrament.” Let's be content to call Bible things by Bible names (1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Peter 4:11).

Its Elements. There are two elements in the Lord's supper: the cup and the bread (1 Corinthians 10:16).

The bread. “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread...” (Matthew 26:26). This bread would have been unleavened as the Passover was being observed (Exodus 12:17-20).

The cup. The cup is “the fruit of the vine” (Mark 14:25); unfermented grape juice. The

Scriptures often make mention of the fruit of the vine, the juice of grapes, the cup and blood (Genesis 40:9-11; 49:11; Leviticus 25:5, 11; Deuteronomy 32:14; Revelation 14:14-20).

To add another element is to add to the word of God and to leave off an element is to take away from it! (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; 2 John 9; Revelation 22:18-19).

Its Purpose. The Lord's supper is a memorial to the fact that Jesus lived and died. The Lord said, "...this do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25). 1 Corinthians 11:26 records, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." The bread reminds the disciples of the Lord's body and the cup brings to remembrance His shed blood (Matthew 26:26-28).

Its Observance. Four things to know:

The day. By approved apostolic example, we learn the day of the Lord's supper observance. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7). The first day of the week is a day of great significance in the New Testament (Matthew 28:1-6; John 20:19; Acts 2:1; Leviticus 23:15-16; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

There is no example where the disciples came together to observe the Lord's supper on any other day of the week. If so, please produce the Scripture _____.

The frequency. How often is the Lord's supper to be observed? Does it make any difference whether it is observed weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually? When God commanded the Jews, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8), how often did He expect them to keep the sabbath? Every sabbath, right? Inasmuch as every week has a first day, the disciples break bread every Sunday.

The manner. The Lord's supper is both a collective affair, in that it involves the church being "come together" (1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 20), and an individual matter, as a man is to "examine himself" (1 Corinthians 11:28). 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 discusses the manner in which one partakes. It is to be done worthily, with self-examination, discerning the Lord's body.

The duration. The Lord's supper is to be observed "till he come" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Let's keep the Lord's supper ordinances as delivered (1 Corinthians 11:2, 23).

The Terre Haute Speaker is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

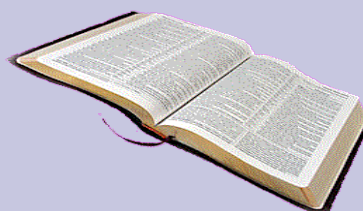
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
2645 S Joe Fox St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
(Exit 11, I-70 & SR 46)

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com



Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



***The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!***