

## WHY EAT THE LORD’S SUPPER?

by John Isaac Edwards

The Lord’s supper is a divine memorial instituted by Christ (Mt. 26:26-29). Christians are taught, “...do in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:24-25). Paul wrote the Corinthians, “When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper” (1 Cor. 11:20). Why eat the Lord’s supper...

**1) IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE BODY OF CHRIST?** The Lord’s supper is for those within the Lord’s body. Paul wrote, “For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread” (1 Cor. 10:17). Spiritually, there are as many bodies as there are breads — ONE (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23). To propose that there are many different bodies is to suggest that there are many different breads. Is one bread as good as another? Now, how does one become a member of the one body and partaker of that one bread? 1 Corinthians 12:13 answers: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” Thus, one who has not submitted to the “one baptism” into the “one body” (Eph. 4:4-5), is not a part of the one body and therefore not a partaker of that one bread. So, why eat the Lord’s supper? The Lord’s supper is without meaning to those without the Lord’s body!

**2) IF YOU THINK THE KINGDOM IS NOT YET IN EXISTENCE?** The theory of premillennialism asserts that the kingdom is yet future and will be established at Christ’s second coming. If such be true, why eat the Lord’s supper? The Lord’s supper belongs to the kingdom. Instituting the Lord’s supper Jesus said, “...I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Mt. 26:28). The fact that the church in the first century met to break bread (Acts 2:42; 20:7) affirms the kingdom is the church and is in existence! In fact Jesus said, “...That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power” (Mk. 9:1). Either the kingdom came in their lifetime, as Jesus said, Jesus uttered something that was untrue, or there are some folks about 2,000 years old roaming the earth today still looking for the kingdom to come! To be “in Christ” (Col. 1:2) and “in the body...which is the church” (Col. 1:22, 24) is to be “in the kingdom” (Col. 1:13). Why were folks in the first century said to be in the kingdom, if the kingdom is not yet in existence, and why did they meet on the first day of the week to eat the

Lord’s supper? (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9).

**3) IF YOU REASON CHRIST CAME IN AD 70?** The AD 70 doctrine maintains that the second coming of Christ including the establishment of the eternal kingdom, the day of judgment, the end of the world, and the resurrection of the dead, occurred with the fall of Judaism in A.D. 70. If this be so, why eat the Lord’s supper? The memorial observance is “...till he come” (1 Cor. 11:26). In fact, if Christ came in AD 70, there would not be any one on earth to eat the Lord’s supper, nor would there be any elements to eat! For, at Christ’s coming “...he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God...” (1 Cor. 15:24) and “...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10)!

**4) IF YOU EAT AS A NORMAL, ORDINARY MEAL WITH THE USUAL VARIETY OF FOOD?** The Lord’s supper has been presented by some writers today as being like a potluck. One said, “Everyone brings food to share with everyone else. When the weather is nice, all the food is placed on a long folding

table outside. A chest full of ice sits beside the drink table. Kids run wildly around. They are having so much fun that they must be rounded up by parents and encouraged to eat. After a prayer of thanksgiving is offered, people line up, talking and laughing as they load their plates with food. In the middle of all the food sits a single loaf of bread next to a large container of the fruit of the vine. Each believer partakes of the bread and juice/wine while going through the serving line...The atmosphere is not unlike that of a wedding banquet. It is a great time of fellowship, encouragement, edification, friendship, caring, catching-up, praying, exhorting, and maturing. The reason for the event? In case you did not recognize it, this is the Lord's supper, New Testament style!" Notice anything missing from this description? Not a single passage of Scripture! If the Lord's supper was a normal, ordinary meal with the usual

variety of food, then it would be wrong to eat the Lord's supper without a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food! Yet Paul rebuked the Corinthians, who were feasting with the supper, "*What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not*" (1 Cor. 11:22).

**5) IF YOU DO NOT COME TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH?**  
The Lord's supper is a collective action that involves the church coming together (1 Cor. 11:18-20, 33; Acts 20:7). Thus, we don't forsake assembling together and take a pack and carry communion set to the lake, golf course, tree stand, race or elsewhere thinking we have done what the Lord said. Have we? What about other responsibilities we have like laying by in store upon the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2)?

**6) IF YOU DO NOT EAT WORTHILY?** Paul taught, "*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*" (1 Cor. 11:27). Some don't eat the Lord's supper thinking, "I'm not worthy." From that standpoint, who is worthy? The word in the text is not "worthy", but "worthily". It has to do with the manner in which one partakes. We have divine commentary on this in the same context when Paul continues, "*For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body*" (1 Cor. 11:29). This requires self-examination (1 Cor. 11:28).

Why eat the Lord's supper? To do what the Lord said (1 Cor. 11:24-25), to remember the Lord (1 Cor. 11:24-25), to commune with the Lord (1 Cor. 10:16), to proclaim the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:26).

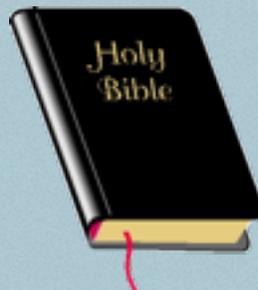
**EACH ONE FIND ONE. EACH ONE BRING ONE.  
EACH ONE TEACH ONE. EACH ONE WIN ONE.**

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