

The Lord's Supper

Part 1

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you: Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.’” (I Corinthians 11: 23-26)

How do you behave when a king invites you to sit and eat at his banquet? You would be first of all happy and proud, for this a great honour that you receive. If you will sit with the king, will you not prepare yourself ahead of time to appear honourable? Will you not be so excited for that coming event? Will you not tell others, “I am invited at the king’s table.” Will you not do your best and give all your best to appear lovely; wearing your best clothes and the most expensive perfume and lotion you have?

Today I am bringing to you the invitation from the King’s table – for the banquet of the Lord Jesus Christ; He is the Messiah who was appointed by God, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Jesus reigns over the people not by sword or by body power but by love, mercy, and justice. He purchases His citizens not by money or silver and gold, but by his great sacrifice when his blood was shed on the cross. He heals the sick, restores the broken hearted, gives the sight for the blind; He makes the oppressed released and set the captives free.

Jesus is God (Read in your Bible Philippians 2: 6). He lived as human 2000 years ago. He dwelt among the people to let them see His divine kingship and the glory of God, for Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Jesus suffered and died on the cross and raised from the dead on the third day to fulfill the redemption of human from sin. On the night that He was betrayed He sat with his disciples on the table and took with them his last supper and told them twice, **“Do this in remembrance of me.”** We are the redeemed people of God. We believe and obey His word. We desire to carefully celebrate the Last Supper as Jesus commanded.

1- The Lord's Supper represents the sacrifice: When we eat the bread we are reminded of Jesus who came down to earth as a man and offered His body for us. He was born as a Son, He served mankind as human and did miracles being God. When we drink the cup we are reminded of the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Before Jesus, in the Old Testament, the people could not come directly to God because of sin. Only the priest who offered sacrifices of blood of animals was presenting the people to God. But by the blood of Jesus we received the new covenant. We now can come boldly to the throne of God’s grace because Jesus had paid the price. He became the sacrifice for our sins. **“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Roman 6: 23)** Moreover, the Lord's Supper is not a tradition but a command to do as Jesus said, **“Do this in remembrance of me.”** Hence, we should not take it lightly but ought to take the Lord's Supper after we examined ourselves and assured that our sins are forgiven by believing who Jesus is, and by coming to Him with repentant heart. **“A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on Himself.” (I Corinthians 11:28-29)** Awareness of sin should not prohibit us from taking the Lord's Supper but to move us to repentance as we acknowledge the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. **But if you are not willing to repent, better for you not to take the Lord supper, because in doing so you are bringing judgment on yourself. We as Church of God we**

recommend that the Lord supper to be given only to the disciples; those who had committed themselves to follow Christ wholeheartedly, therefore we do not recommend the Lord's supper to the crowd who have not yet committed their lives and heart to God. We recommend the Lord's supper for those who commit their lives to God, to Christ, to the Word of God and to do their responsibilities carefully toward God, their families and toward God's Church.

2- The Lord's Supper proclaims that Jesus died: The glory of Jesus was not only seen by the miracles He did or He is doing. His glory was manifested when He died on the cross, raised from the dead and ascended unto heaven. ***This is the truth: Jesus died on the cross to redeem us from sin and death.*** We proclaim this as we share together the bread and the cup. Jesus is God, (Read in your Bible Philippians 2: 6), but He became man to share humanity with the children of God. He died on the cross to destroy Satan who holds the power of death. **“Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -that is, the devil- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 2: 14-15)**

3- The Lord's Supper proclaims the Lord's second coming: The Lord Jesus said, **“I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.” (Matthew 26:29)** Jesus had ascended unto heaven but He will come again as He said, **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3)** We all wait for the second coming of the Lord, and we all will be judged at His coming. **“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2)** We who believe in Jesus and obey His words our names are written in the book of life. **“If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)** As we partake with the bread and the cup we proclaim that we are waiting and ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore you really need to be ready if you want to be part of the Lord's Supper!

4- The Lord's Supper represents our continuous fellowship with God: When we received Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour we spiritually opened our hearts for Him to come in. **“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)** The Lord Jesus is now with God the Father but the Holy Spirit whom He sent is continuously with us. While we obey God's word The Holy Spirit is honoured, Jesus is glorified and God the Father is magnified.

5- The Lord's Supper emphasizes our fellowship with one another: Living in the presence of God produces unity among believers and promotes obedience to God's word. We cannot live without fellowships or away from the church. Besides reading the Bible and praying, we need to be part of the church or the local body of Christ in order for us to grow and mature spiritually. And as the early Christians did that **“they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42)**, let us persevere as chosen people of God and look forward to be part of the wedding banquet of the risen lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear and beloved, I invite you to join me in my prayer: **“Father God I came to You in the name of Jesus who gave his body and shed his blood on the cross to offer me new life. I thank You Lord for the eternal life I receive by believing in You. I thank You for the life of my brothers and sisters. I pray Lord that your words will encourage us to be always in fellowship with You and with one another. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”**