

Doctrinal Studies

The Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11:23-26

The Jews celebrated the Passover ritual every year for over 1400 years – that ritual that commemorated the passing over of the Death Angel who had come to slay the first-born of Egypt, but passed over the homes of those who, in faith, had smeared the blood of an innocent, perfect, unblemished lamb on the top and sides of the doors of their houses.

The ritual foreshadowed the very sacrifice that our Lord made as He offered Himself as a substitute not just for our sins, and not just for the sins of those who betrayed Him, but for the sins of the whole world. I John 2:2 "...but also for the sins of the whole world."

1. The focus of the Lord's Supper is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the unique person of the universe and should be the only celebrity in the Christian life.
2. The purpose for observing the Lord's Supper is to express our occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ to God our Heavenly Father.
3. Those who have advanced farther in the spiritual life will receive a much greater blessing from participating in this spiritual ritual than those who are just starting or those who have chosen to neglect spiritual growth.
4. The observance of the Lord's Supper is commanded to every Church age Believer. Every Believer born after 30 AD and before the resurrection of the body of Christ, or the rapture of the Church, is an individual -priest to God. This observance is a normal function of the Priesthood of the Believer.
5. In order for the Lord's Supper to be truly meaningful, the Believer must have an understanding of the Biblical concepts of Soteriology – in other words, the doctrines related to the salvation work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Concepts of Soteriology include:

- 1.) Propitiation – which is the work of Jesus Christ toward God. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross propitiated or satisfied the righteous claim of God against fallen humanity.
- 2.) Redemption – which is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ toward sin. By His sacrifice, He paid the penalty for sin and redeemed us from the slave market of sin.
- 3.) Reconciliation – which is the work of Jesus Christ toward man. Jesus broke down the barrier between God and man that had existed since the fall and thus reconciled man to God.
6. A Believer must have these great Biblical concepts in mind in order to meaningfully relate what one is doing while observing the Lord's table and the Biblical content.
7. The observance of the Lord's Supper is a testing time – a test of the s concentration and coordination. The ability to apply the Biblical truths, which have been learned to the application of those principles to every day life.
8. The key to this test is memory. Believers must be able to remember the doctrines of Soteriology and Christology. A poor human memory is not the issue since our Lord has a system – the Grace System of Comprehension, which allows each Believer, while in harmony, to properly receive spiritual truths. He takes up the slack for deficiencies in IQ when we are receiving God's Word while filled with the Holy Spirit.
9. For the Lord's Supper to have meaning there must have been prior concentration and perception of God's Word while under the power of the Holy Spirit. If Biblical truths are not real, then the ritual will be meaningless.
10. We concentrate to receive God's Word and then recall those Biblical concepts in worship. This is called "reverse concentration".
11. When the Believer has advanced in the spiritual life to the point of having developed capacity, then it is possible to fulfill the command in I Cor. 11:24 "...this do in remembrance of me."
12. The Bible gives warning – not to receive the Lord's Supper while out of fellowship with Jesus Christ. I Cor. 11:27-31 There should be no unconfessed sins.