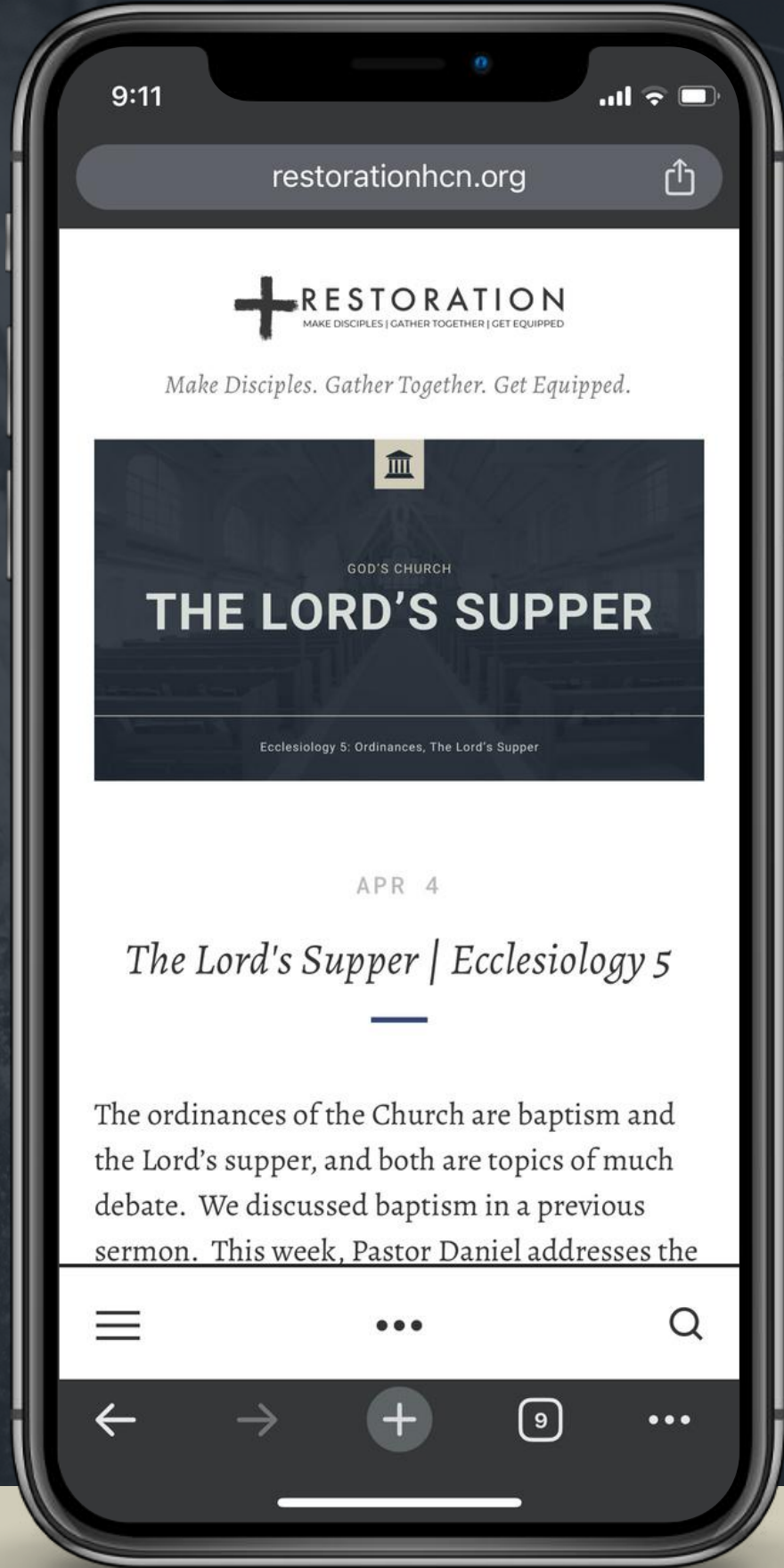




GOD'S CHURCH

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Ecclesiology 5: Ordinances, The Lord's Supper





if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

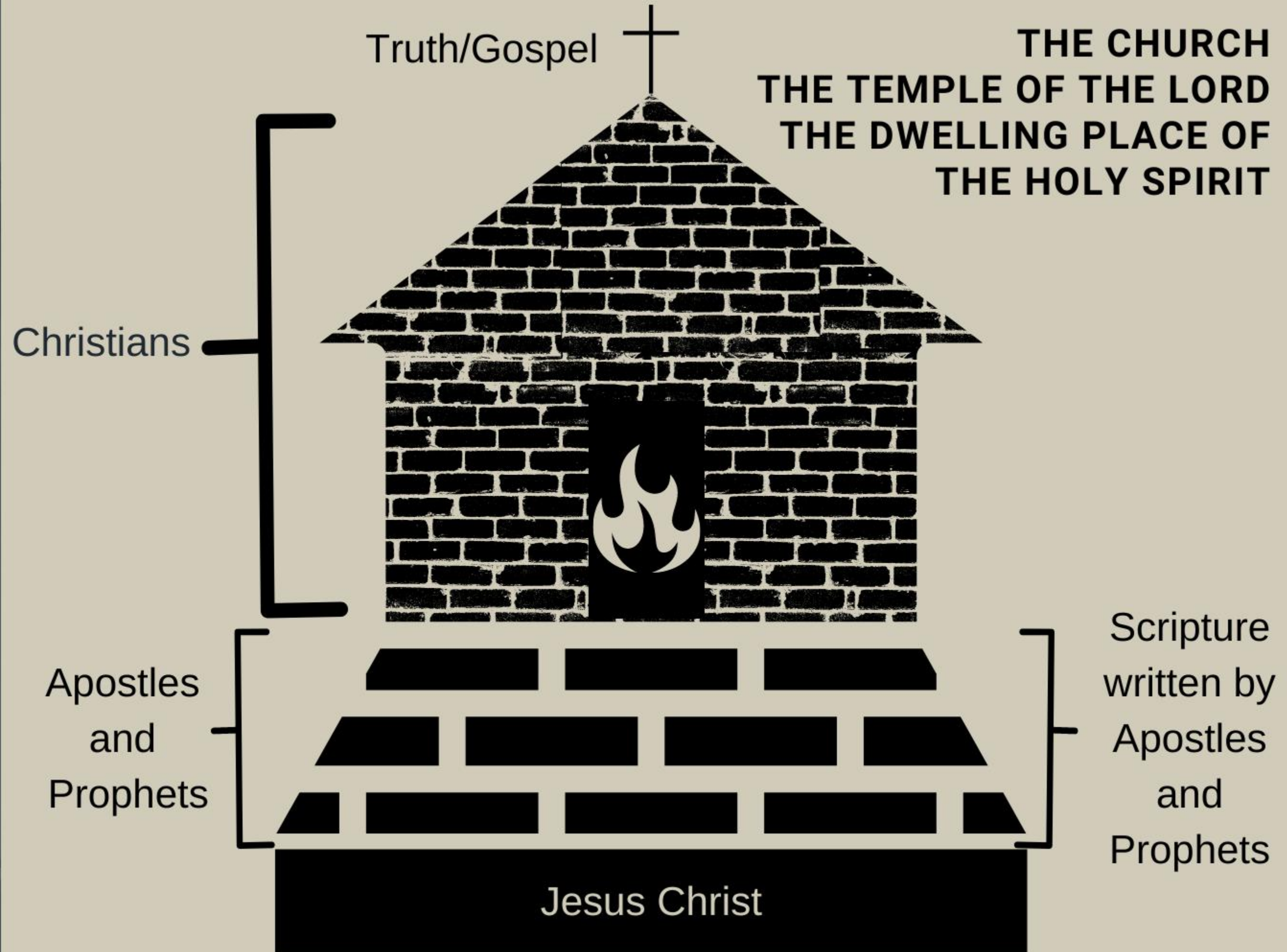
1 Timothy 3:15



EPHESIANS 2:19-22

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

(SEE ALSO 1 PETER 2:1-6)





Ecclesiology

The Study of the Church

Pillar of Truth

Temple of the Holy Spirit

Gospel Proclamation

Priesthood of All Believers

Spiritual Gifts

Body of Christ: Christ is the Head

Elders and Deacons

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Discipline

Disciple-Making



18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:18-20

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

-1 Corinthians 11:26

ORDINANCES (SACRIMENTS)



BAPTISM

Presentations are communication tools that can be used as lectures.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

Presentations are communication tools that can be used as lectures.



London Baptist Confession 1689

CHAPTER 28, PARAGRAPH 1

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in his church to the end of the world. (Matt. 28:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:26)

CHAPTER 28, PARAGRAPH 2

These holy appointments are to be administered by those only who are qualified and thereunto called, according to the commission of Christ. (Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 4:1)



*“Symbols are powerful
because they are the visible signs
of invisible realities.”*

-St. Augustine



Sign

“For a sign is a thing which, over and above the impression it makes on the senses, causes something else to come into the mind as a consequence of itself: as when we see a footprint, we conclude that an animal whose footprint this is has passed by; and when we see smoke, we know that there is fire beneath...” (Augustine, On Christian Doctrine, Book II, Ch. 1)



Symbol

A symbol represents another reality, but you need more information to understand the connection between a Symbol and that to which it refers.



What is the Lord's Supper?

Symbol of Faith



Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:22-58)



The cup is the New Covenant in His blood (Luke 22:20)



What is the Lord's Supper?

Symbol of Faith



Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:22-58)



The cup is the New Covenant in His blood (Luke 22:20)



(Context: Jesus just finished feeding the 5,000)

22 On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

-John 6:22-24



25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

-John 6:25-34



35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

-John 6:35-40



41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” 43 Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

-John 6:41-51



53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died.

Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

-John 6:53-58



Conclusion:

**JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.
JUST LIKE GOD PROVIDED MANNA FROM HEAVEN TO
SUSTAIN THE ISRAELITES PHYSICALLY, JESUS IS THE
BREAD OF LIFE DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN TO
SUSTAIN US SPIRITUALLY.**

THUS, WE ARE TO “FEED ON” CHRIST CONTINUALLY.



What is the Lord's Supper?

Symbol of Faith



Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:22-58)



The cup is the New Covenant in His blood (Luke 22:20)



Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

-Matthew 26:26-28

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

Luke 22:19-20



The New Covenant

OLD COVENANT (OLD TESTAMENT)

God rescued Israel and made a covenant with them, but they would fail to keep it, constantly rebelling against God (Deut. 29:22-28).

THE OT PROMISED A NEW COVENANT

Moses said they would gain a heart to understand (Deut. 29:24), Jeremiah details a new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34), and Ezekiel mentions a new heart and indwelling Spirit (Ez. 36:26-27). In this New Covenant, hearts would be transformed to obey God!

THE NEW COVENANT (NEW TESTAMENT)

Jesus fulfills the Law as we couldn't (Matt. 5:17), and His death covers the penalty for our sins (John 1:29). The New Covenant extends to Gentiles (Acts 10, Eph.2:13-14), and we all live under grace (Rom. 6:14-15) in this better covenant (Heb. 7:22) with a better High Priest (Heb. 8:6). We enter by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9) and the Holy Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:9-11), ensuring we persevere and share in the inheritance of Christ (Heb. 9:15, Rom. 8:17-30)!



What Are We Doing When We Take Communion?

Symbol of Faith



Remember our Savior and
His Atoning Work (Luke
22:19)



Feast with Christ and His
Church in Unity
(Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7, 1 John
1:3)



Proclaim the Lord's
Death/Atonement
(1 Cor. 11)



Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

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Luke 22:19-20



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CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 1

The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night wherein he was betrayed, to be observed in his churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and showing to all the world the sacrifice of himself in his death, (1 Cor. 11:23–26) confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in him, their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other. (1 Cor. 10:16–17,21)

CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 2

In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to his Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sin of the quick or dead, but only a memorial of that one offering up of himself by himself upon the cross, once for all; (Heb. 9:25–26,28) and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God for the same. (1 Cor. 11:24; Matt. 26:26–27) So that the popish sacrifice of the mass, as they call it, is most abominable, injurious to Christ's own sacrifice the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect.



Conclusion:

JESUS COMMANDS HIS DISCIPLES TO DRINK THE CUP AND EAT THE BREAD IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A "SYMBOL," A PHYSICAL PRACTICE THAT POINTS TO A SPIRITUAL REALITY THAT WE ARE IN THE NEW COVENANT.

THUS, WE ARE REMINDED TO "FEED ON" CHRIST THROUGH COMMUNION IN CELEBRATION OF THE NEW COVENANT BY HIS BLOOD.



What Are We Doing When We Take Communion?

Symbol of Faith



Remember our Savior and
His Atoning Work (Luke
22:19)



Feast with Christ and His
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(Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7,
1 John 1:3)



Proclaim the Lord's
Death/Atonement
(1 Cor. 11)



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

-Acts 2:42

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

-Acts 20:7

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3



Conclusion:

**THE DISCIPLES CELEBRATED THE LORD'S SUPPER
REGULARLY, SEEING IT AS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER.**

THUS, WE SHOULD CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER OFTEN.



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17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, 19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

-1 Corinthians 11:17-22



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CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 3

The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to a holy use, and to take and break the bread; to take the cup, and, they communicating also themselves, to give both to the communicants. (1 Cor. 11:23–26)

CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 4

The denial of the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, the lifting them up, or carrying them about for adoration, and reserving them for any pretended religious use, are all contrary to the nature of this ordinance, and to the institution of Christ. (Matt. 26:26–28, 15:9, Exod. 20:4–5)



Conclusion:

**IT IS NOT THE LORD'S SUPPER IF IT IS NOT SHARED
TOGETHER WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

WE SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER REGULARLY, MAKING SURE
EVERY BROTHER AND SISTER CAN PARTAKE.



23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 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.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

-1 Corinthians 11:23-26



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Symbol of Faith



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Proclaim the Lord's
Death/Atonement
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27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— 34 if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

-1 Corinthians 11:27-34



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CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 7

Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this ordinance, do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually receive, and feed upon Christ crucified, and all the benefits of his death; the body and blood of Christ being then not corporally or carnally, but spiritually present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses. (1 Cor. 10:16, 11:23–26)

CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 6

All ignorant and ungodly persons, as they are unfit to enjoy communion with Christ, so are they unworthy of the Lord's table, and cannot, without great sin against him, while they remain such, partake of these holy mysteries, or be admitted thereunto; (2 Cor. 6:14–15) yea, whosoever shall receive unworthily, are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, eating and drinking judgment to themselves. (1 Cor. 11:29; Matt. 7:6)



Conclusion:

**GOD TAKES THE LORD'S SUPPER SERIOUSLY.
TAKING COMMUNION WITHOUT RECOGNIZING ITS
SACRED MEANING RESULTS IN JUDGMENT.
SICKNESS AND EVEN DEATH MAY BE A RESULT.**

THUS, WE SHOULD EXAMINE OURSELVES BEFORE TAKING COMMUNION,
FIRST IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIST'S ATONEMENT, SECOND IN
FELLOWSHIP TO ENSURE THERE IS ENOUGH FOR EVERY BELIEVER.



What Are We Doing When We Take Communion?

Symbol of Faith



Remember our Savior and
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22:19)



Feast with Christ and His
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(Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7,
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Proclaim the Lord's
Death/Atonement
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Views of the Lord's Supper (Communion)

*Christ is not brought down to us
but rather dines with us and the
other saints, making communion a
special form of fellowship.*

TRANSUBSTANTIATION (ROMAN CATHOLIC)

A belief held by many Roman Catholics that the bread and wine physically transform to become the literal blood and body of Jesus. The view takes Jesus' words very literally, but cannot account for communion elements that rot. (see Catechism of the Catholic Church 336, 362, 364, 368, 379)

CONSUBSTANTIATION (LUTHERAN)

The view held by many Lutherans that the bread and wine remain physically the bread and wine but that the blood and body of Christ become physically present. (see Confession Concerning Christ's Supper 37.295-296)

MEMORIAL VIEW

This is the view that since Christ said "do this in remembrance of me" that is all that communion is. Ulrich Zwingli developed this view. (see Commentary on True and False Religion)

SPIRITUAL (REAL PRESENCE) VIEW

John Calvin argued that it is more than a mere memorial as the presence of the Holy Spirit means we are dining with Christ while memorializing Him.



ANCIENT VIEWS OF COMMUNION

Ignatius of Antioch (d. c. 110)

“Take note of those who hold heterodox opinions on the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary their opinions are to the mind of God. . . . They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes” (Letter to the Smyrnaeans 6:2–7:1).

Irenaeus (d. 202)

“He took from among creation that which is bread, and gave thanks, saying, ‘This is my body.’ The cup likewise, which is from among the creation to which we belong, he confessed to be his blood” (Against Heresies, 4:17:5).

Tertullian (160–225):

“[T]he flesh feeds on the body and blood of Christ, that the soul likewise may be filled with God” (The Resurrection of the Dead).

Some early Christian quotes used language similar to Scripture that can be taken literally or figuratively.



ANCIENT VIEWS OF COMMUNION CLARIFIED

Tertullian (160–225):

“Having taken the bread and given it to His disciples, **Jesus made it His own body, by saying, ‘This is My body,’ that is, the symbol of My body.**” (Against Marcion, 4.40).

Key Comments from Early Church:

- The Didache (1st or 2nd Century): “spiritual food and drink” (The Didache, 9).
- Justin Martyr (110–165) “the bread which our Christ gave us to offer in remembrance of the Body”(Dialogue with Trypho, 70).
- Clement of Alexandria: “The Scripture, accordingly, has named wine the symbol of the sacred blood” (The Instructor, 2.2).
- Origen “We have a symbol of gratitude to God in the bread which we call the Eucharist” (Against Celsus, 8.57).
- Cyprian (200–258), “...represent the Blood of Christ” (Epistle 63.7).

Early Christian leaders clarified that the communion elements were symbols, not the physical blood and body of Christ.



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CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 5

The outward elements in this ordinance, duly set apart to the use ordained by Christ, have such relation to him crucified, as that truly, although in terms used figuratively, they are sometimes called by the names of the things they represent, in other words, the body and blood of Christ, (1 Cor. 11:27) albeit, in substance and nature, they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before. (1 Cor. 11:26–28)

CHAPTER 30, PARAGRAPH 6

That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine, into the substance of Christ's body and blood, commonly called transubstantiation, by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant not to Scripture alone, (Acts 3:21; Luke 14:6,39) but even to common sense and reason, overthrows the nature of the ordinance, and has been, and is, the cause of manifold superstitions, yea, of gross idolatries. (1 Cor. 11:24–25)



Conclusion:

FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THE CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES. -1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

COMMUNION IS A PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL THAT BUILDS FAITH AND UNIFIES THE CHURCH. AS SUCH IT A POWERFUL MEANS TO BATTLE THE ENEMY AND BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Resources

