LIGHT OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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…

11:33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

I. The Assembly and The Lord's Supper

A church (local) is an assembly of God's covenant people gathered in Christ's name for sacred worship and mutual edification.

When the believers gathered "as a church" in Corinth, they 1) took the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20). 2) They did this with a meal (1 Cor. 11:33, Jude 1:12). 3) There was worship, teaching, and prophecy (1 Cor. 14:26).

Christ's Last Supper with the disciples was a Passover meal together with them. This became the model for early church gatherings.[1] *Koinonia* is translated variously as "communion," "participation," "sharing," or "fellowship."[2] A church is a covenant-community (Acts 2:46).[3]

II. The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

A. The New Covenant[4]

God made this covenant with the house of Israel. The New Covenant supersedes the Sinai Covenant based on the Law. Through the New Covenant, Gentiles are grafted into God's covenant people with believing Jews and so receive with the Jews all the promises of Israel. Israel's God becomes our God through Christ. Jews also receive all of God's covenant promises to them through the New Covenant.

B. A Remembrance of Him

The purpose of remembrance was not simply to recall the past, but to represent the past in order to participate in it and extend its effects into the present. Passover thus contemporized the exodus for Jews… "In every generation," taught the rabbis, "a man must so regard himself as if he came forth himself out of Egypt, for it is written, 'And you shall tell your son in that day, saying "It is because of that which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt"' (m. Pesah. 10:5; Exod 13:8).[5]

In remembrance we presently proclaim Christ's once-made sacrifice on the cross! Jesus was put to death in the flesh, for our sins (1 Peter 3:18).

---

1 James R. Edwards, The Gospel According to Luke, PNTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015), 628.

2 Mounce Greek Dictionary, "κοινωνία," MGD.

3 John B. Polhill, Acts, NAC 26; eds. E. Ray Clendenen and David S. Dockery; (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 119.

4 Roy E. Ciampa and Brian S. Rosner, *The First Letter to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010), 552.The Unity of the body of Christ

5 Edwards, *The Gospel According to Luke*, 629.

C. The Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood

The Church Fathers almost universally taught some form of *real presence*, not *memorialism*. The apostolic witness also appears to present that the bread and wine are more than a mere remembrance (1 Cor. 10:16; John 6:53-58).

- **Real Presence Views**: **Transubstantiation (Roman Catholic):** bread and wine change into body and blood, without changing their appearance or affecting Christ's bodily existence in heaven. **Sacramental Union (Lutheran):** Bread and wine don't change but carry bodily presence "in, with, and under." **Spiritual Presence (Reformed):** Bread and wine remain what they are. Christ body and blood are conveyed spiritually through them to the believer. Faith is necessary to partake of Christ's body in the supper.
- **Memorialist View:** Simply bread and wine. It is a memorial only, and Christ's spiritual presence is with us in the normal way.

A deeper look at 1 Corinthians:

- The rock in the wilderness was Christ (spiritually). (1 Corinthians 10:1-4; 1 Cor 10:9-11)
- Eating unworthily makes us guilty of the body and blood of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:27).
- The real presence view affects how one participates in the Church. Abiding in Christ includes gathering with other Christians and partaking of his body and blood.

D. The Church as Christ's Body (1 Cor 10:17; 12:27)

III. Judging Ourselves Truly (1 Cor. 11:28; 31-32)

We in the Charismatic church need to examine ourselves. Choose reconciliation over division. Choose the servant paradigm over pride and self-aggrandizement. Choose to listen to those disenfranchised rather than be self-protective. Choose self-control rather than sexual immorality. Choose to wait for each other and value the weakest among us, rather than putting a stumbling block in another's way. Choose to come to the table rather than embrace bitterness and anger.

"**Discerning the body"** means seeing and loving our brothers and sisters in the Lord. It means recognizing when we have caused offense and actively repenting and restoring. It is doing what Jesus said in Matthew 5:23:

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

What impact you the most from what was shared?