

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Two sacraments:

- baptism – rite of initiation (once for a lifetime)
- Lord's supper – rite of fellowship (continual throughout life)

So then why a meal?

First, picture of spiritual nourishment

John 6

³⁵ I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

⁵³ 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.

Second, picture of church fellowship

1 Corinthians 11:18-22

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.

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
Passover	Lord's Supper
Circumcision	Baptism
<i>(involves blood)</i>	<i>(no blood)</i>

Institution of the Lord's Supper

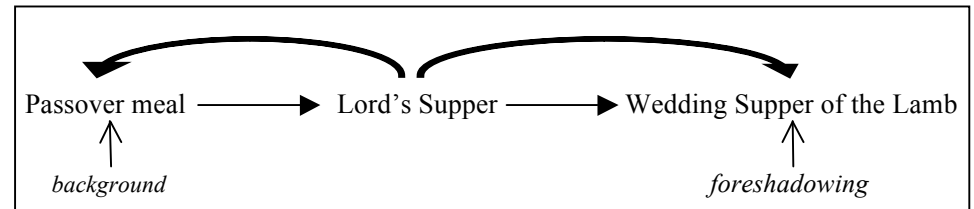
Matthew 26:19-29

¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.

²⁶ 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."

²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."



Revelation 19:7, 9

⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready. ⁹ Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The presence of Christ in the Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

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."

Four views: *Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist, Baptist*

Who may partake of the Lord's Supper?

- only baptized members of the church (or visiting members)
- no children

The Lord's Supper Notes

Two sacraments:

- baptism – rite of initiation (once for a lifetime)
- Lord's supper – rite of fellowship (continual throughout life)

So then why a meal? | Ritual is fitting in 2 ways:

(1) Picture of our spiritual nourishment in Christ

John 6

³⁵ I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

⁵³ 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.

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Jesus – unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you cannot be saved

Why use this metaphor of *eating*?

Eating and drinking is most basic, necessary, life-giving activity

- more than even food and drink, we need Christ | he's our true food and true drink
- notice “eating” and “believing” are synonymous (v. 35)
- which means, to eat of the Lord's supper is an act of believing in him
- you're saying – you give me life; more than even food and drink itself, I need you

v. 56 – “whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him”

- to abide is to “dwell with” or to “live in” | language of union with Christ
- sacraments express our union with Christ | “we are baptized into Christ” and “as we eat/drink, we abide”

So why does eating and drinking express union? (2 thoughts)

- first, fact that we eat his body and blood is to partake his death
- second, when you love someone, you want to eat them
- illustration: I want to eat Noah | or when Noah nurses on Christina
- closest analogy is sex – fitting expression of intimacy because when love, you want to be in that person
- baptism – wedding ceremony | Lord's supper – sex

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

Lord's Supper is communion with Christ

- deep, intimate sharing, abiding and union with our savior

(2) Picture of communion, not just with Christ, but with whole church

1 Corinthians 11:18-22

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In Corinth, the Lord's Supper became a meal of strife and division

- rich Christians were eating lavish meals separately from poor Christians
- deep violation of meal
- in ancient world, to share a meal was a profound act of friendship, kinship
- in church, Lord's supper is a meal of unity and fellowship | we eat this meal *together*

Institution of the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:19-20 – And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.

The Lord's Supper is the Passover meal

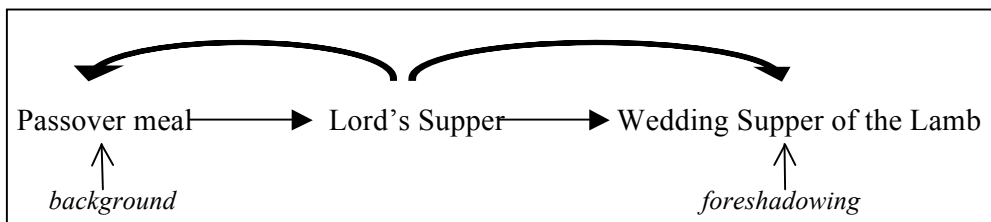
- Passover: unblemished lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs and wine
- Jesus fulfills and transforms the meaning of the meal

²⁶ 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." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Actions are significant

- bread is broken, cup is poured out | dramatization of Christ on cross

²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."



Bible speaks of an eschatological meal

- celebratory meal when everything will be made new and beautiful

Isaiah 25:6

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

Revelation 19:7, 9

⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready. ⁹ Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Wedding meal of Christ and the church

- in Middle East, wedding celebrations went on for days | most festive occasion
- Lord's Supper is a down-payment, anticipation of the wedding supper in New Creation

OT sacraments are replaced by NT sacraments

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
Passover	Lord's Supper
Circumcision	Baptism
<i>(involves blood)</i>	<i>(no blood)</i>

OT sacraments are bloody because they point forward to Christ's death

NT sacraments are non-bloody because Christ has fulfilled the sacrifice

The presence of Christ in the Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

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."

Roman Catholic and Lutheran

- transubstantiation – elements turn into Christ's body
- consubstantiation – Christ's body is with elements
- literalist view | when Christ says, "this is my body," he means, "I'm here!"

Baptist view – memorial

- Christ is not really present, but act of remembering
- analogy: Lincoln memorial | Abraham Lincoln is not really there, but you think about him

"Do this is remembrance of me"

- this is not mere intellectual recollection
- but in Bible, to "remember the poor" is to love and engage in relationship with them
- to remember Jesus in the Supper is to worship, adore, trust and obey him | versus, forgetting Christ

Calvinist view – real presence

- agrees with Catholic and Lutheran positions, that Christ is truly present in the supper
- not a mere memorial or an intellectual exercise only
- but Christ is not present bodily but through the Spirit
- Lutherans/Catholics believe we partake Christ through the mouth | Calvinists through mouth of soul
- analogy: parent hugging a child | in that moment, parent's love is sealed and reinforced for child
- “means of grace” – Spirit communicates the love of Christ in the Supper

Who may partake of the Supper?

Only baptized members of the church

- modern people hate this because we're individualists – don't tell me what to do

Remember visible/invisible church distinction

- supper is only for those in the visible church because supper is a visible rite
- visible church membership is communally decided | conditions to enter (namely, belief)
- you can't barge in a family meal unless you're invited
- meal is not just vertical, but horizontal | therefore, you must belong to community to partake

Therefore, when campus ministries administer sacraments, it is improper

- sacraments are church rites, not individualistic expressions of faith
- properly administered and fenced by elders of church (proper authorizations)
- sacraments should not be disconnected from church life

Why can't children partake of the Supper? Issue of paedocommunion

- if infants can be baptized, then infants should be able to come to the table
- but remember distinction between baptism and Supper
- baptism is a passive rite of initiation | Supper is an active rite of sanctification/fellowship
- Jesus says, “do this in remembrance of me” – requires understanding and belief
- 1 Corinthians 11 warns against partaking in an unworthy manner