

How to Approach the Lord's Supper
I Corinthians 11:17-34, Luke 22:14-20

Q: Why do we take the Lord's Supper?

A: We believe:

- It was Commanded: These are holy and sacred symbols which Jesus commanded us to do in remembrance of Him and in God's name. This has immediate application as to taking the Lord's Supper with reverence, awe, seriousness, and joy.
- To Remember: By faith and repentance, I have been united with Christ through His death and resurrection (Just as we are reminded of this through the Word preached, we are reminded through the Lord's Supper).
- For Assurance: I am visibly and experientially reminded of my own current union and relationship with Christ and His church. This builds up my faith, thus assuring and guaranteeing that my sins (past and future) have been forgiven.

Q: How should we take the Lord's Supper?

A: Through remembrance of Christ (who He is, His death and resurrection) and benefits represented by these sacred symbols.

As we come to the Lord's Table on the Lord's Day, we examine ourselves by remembering these emphases:

- Juice and bread are a visible symbol/sign (11:25) of Jesus' blood and bodily death
- Covenant/Promise (11:25, Luke 22:20 "This cup is the New Covenant sealed by my blood, which is shed for you" (ISV))
- Joyous *celebration* of (1) forgiveness (I have confessed and repented of all my sins, both known and unknown) *and* (2) living in righteousness (11:26 & 28)
- Thankful heart attitude (11:24)
- Expecting Christ's return (11:26)

Q: Should I ever abstain from the Lord's Supper?

A: Not generally, if you have heeded these warnings:

- The Elders/Deacons have "set the table" properly (correct elements with correct understanding)
- There is unity in the local body (I Cor. 10:17, 11:29; Rom. 12:18)
- You take the *why* and *how* seriously
- This results in taking the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner, albeit, by "unworthy" persons. An unworthy taking of the Supper would be treating as common what is indeed holy.