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# **The Lord's Supper**



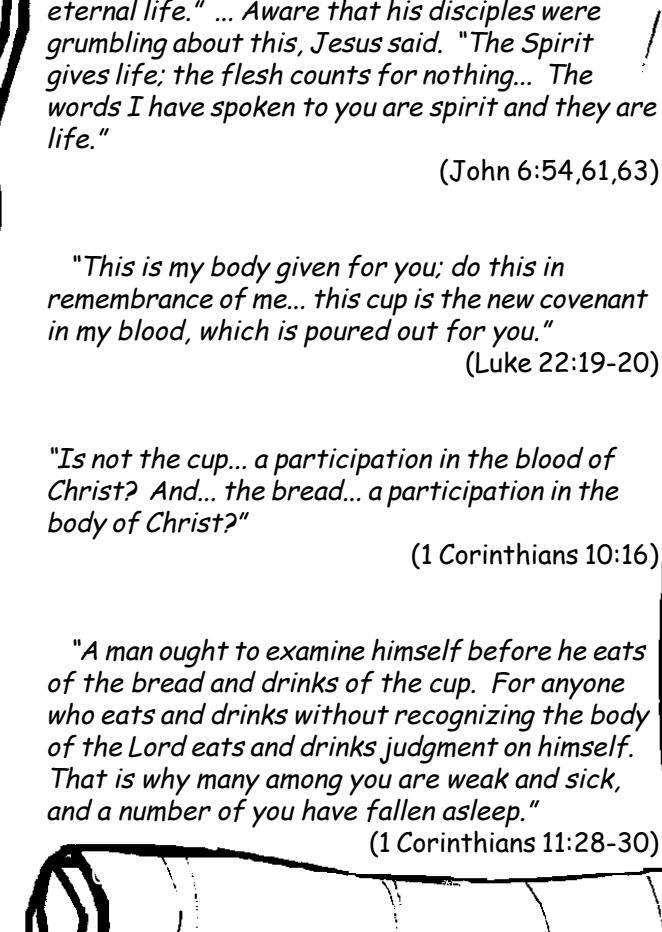
**Pastoral Leader Training Booklet**

# **18**

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*"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." ... Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said. "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing... The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

*(John 6:54,61,63)*

*"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me... this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

*(Luke 22:19-20)*

*"Is not the cup... a participation in the blood of Christ? And... the bread... a participation in the body of Christ?"*

*(1 Corinthians 10:16)*

*"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep."*

*(1 Corinthians 11:28-30)*

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# PRACTICAL WORK

- Pray for the blessing of God on the service of the Lord's Supper.
- Memorize the order of service of the Lord's Supper.
- Lead (or help to lead), services of the Lord's Supper regularly. (Only those authorized by the church should lead the service.)
- Teach your congregation or group about the Lord's Supper.
  - When to celebrate it.
  - Why we celebrate it.
  - Who participates.
  - How to discipline unruly members. (Who should not participate.)

Some churches say the bread becomes Jesus' physical body. Others deny that God works supernaturally in any way. Others say that God works, but in us, not in lifeless pieces of bread. Our concern is to clarify what God says.

*"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*

*So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together, it will not result in judgment.”*

(1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

After reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-34a, please answer the following questions.

Who instituted the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the bread represent? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the wine represent? \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of whom do we celebrate it? \_\_\_\_\_

What do we announce each time we take the bread and the wine?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Serve the Cup:

- Give thanks for the blood of Christ, poured out for forgiveness of sins.
- Read Matthew 26:27-28 (or another text on “This is my blood”).
- Partake; pause for meditation.

Sing in joyful celebration  
of forgiveness and  
communion with Him.

# AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

(To use if your church does not already have an established order.)

**Pray in silence, confessing our sins.**

**Serve the Bread:**

- Give thanks for the body of Christ given for us.
- Read Matthew 26:26 (or another passage on “This is my Body”).
- Partake; pause for meditation.



What danger exists if we eat or drink unworthily?

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Why do we examine ourselves first?

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## WHEN DO WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Churches that celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly, receive the Lord's blessing for their obedience. A church that neglects this commandment lacks discipline. It is disobedient and does not glorify the Lord Jesus. It will have problems.

In the apostolic church, they participated in the Supper every Sunday. (Acts 20:7) Although the Lord Jesus did not specify weekly observance, this practice is beneficial for the devotion and discipline of a new church. Do not think that you must have a large number of people; the Lord is present when two or three are gathered in His name.

How often does your church celebrate the Lord's Supper?

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Note:

- Different churches have varying practices in this matter. Apply this teaching as you can in your own circumstances.

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Note:

- Some churches call the Lord's Supper the "Holy Communion," the "Lord's Table," or the "Eucharist" (thanksgiving).
- Although the apostles used wine, it is understood that some churches prefer grape juice or some other nonalcoholic beverage found in their area.

3. If he does not pay attention to them, ask the church to deal with it as a body; if he does not repent, he is excluded from fellowship, by the command of God, until he does repent. (Matthew 18:17-18, 1 Corinthians 5:4-11)

The Lord's Supper is the sign of our communion with the Lord and with other Christians. We should withhold it only from those who withdraw from that communion. Some pastors deny the Lord's Supper to the whole congregation just because one member is in sin. Let us not act this way. To neglect the Supper paralyzes everyone and weakens love in the church.

Some members of the church in Corinth committed every kind of sin. The Apostle Paul did not withhold the Lord's Supper from the whole church, but ordered that they expel only the one who kept sinning. (1 Corinthians 5)



When a believer who has been out of fellowship with God and the church is repentant and reconciled, he should at once begin participating again in the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper affirms the infinite grace of God and forgiveness of sins. It represents the New Covenant. (Luke 22:20) Our obligation in the New Covenant is to love. (Romans 13:8-10)

## HOW DO WE DISCIPLINE THOSE WHO ARE IN SIN?

If we know for certain that a Christian persists in sinning, we should discipline him. The rule is: correct, not condemn, in love. (Galatians 6:1)

The Lord Jesus gives us three steps:

1. Talk to the offender alone (Matthew 18:15); do not go around criticizing. (Matthew 7:1)
2. If he does not pay attention, take several witnesses to talk with him and restore him. Speak to him with humility. (Matthew 18:16, Galatians 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:19)

The Lord's Supper is the sign of the New Covenant which God has established with us through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. The Lord says in Matthew 26:28...

*"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*



But your little church is too new and weak to do something so important as the sacred Eucharist!

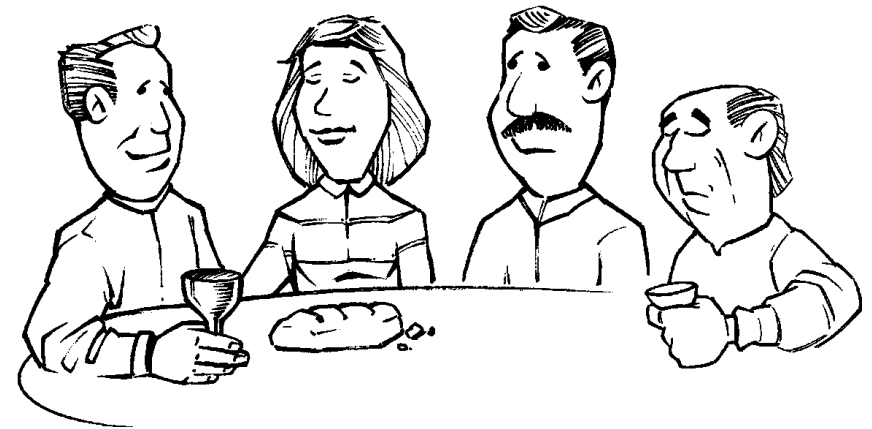
Go away! A new church must obey Christ's commands. It is strengthened as it obeys them.



## WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The SUPPER is only for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray in silence first.



*"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup"*

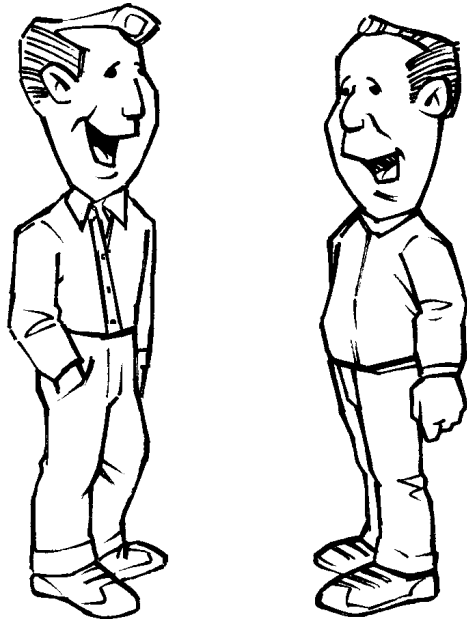
(1 Corinthians 11:28)

The Corinthians who participated unworthily received punishment from God. (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)



Explain the Lord's Supper first in another meeting. Do not weaken the celebration with detailed explanations.

Let the bread and wine speak for them selves. This is why the Lord instituted it.



We will take the Lord's Supper seriously. I want my people to be strengthened in their growth and remember His great sacrifice, made once for all on the cross.

## This is the covenant:

Everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ receives the forgiveness of their sins, and a new, holy and eternal life in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38, Galatians 3:14, Hebrews 8:10, Hebrews 9:15)

## When we share in the Supper:

- We renew our faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus commanded in Luke 22:19-20 when he broke bread:  
*"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me... this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

Jesus said, *"This is my body."* Churches view this in different ways. Some say that God turns the bread into Jesus' physical body. Others deny that God works supernaturally in any way. Others affirm that God works, to share His life with us, not in lifeless pieces of bread. Our concern is not to attack any view but that you know accurately what Scripture says. Jesus did

not say that this is a remembrance, but to “*do this*” in remembrance of Him. The main emphasis is on participating in His body and blood, as the apostle Paul clarifies in 1 Corinthians 10:16: “*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*”

- Jesus’ spoke shocking words about our participation in His body and blood in John 6:53-63: “*...Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.*” ... Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “*Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*”

- God takes this participation in the body of Christ very seriously. He warns us in 1 Corinthians 11:28-30: “*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.*”
- We meditate seriously on His sacrifice, His glorious resurrection and His second coming.
- The Lord’s Supper affirms and renews the unity and love of the church. “*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*” (1 Corinthians 10:17)
- Since the Lord’s Supper is so important, churches should appoint with care those who serve it with proper order.