

Jesus commanded us to do two important things together as the church community. Although, they are not all we do when we gather together, they are set apart because Jesus commanded us to do them. We call these two things ordinances. They are baptism and The Lord's Supper. The latter of these two has been called many things: The Lord's Supper, Communion, and the Eucharist. No matter what we call it, it is important for us to understand why we do it as Christians.



REMEMBER



On the night Jesus would be betrayed, He remembered the Passover meal with His disciples. *Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38*

The Passover was a meal that God had instructed the Israelites to take each year to remember how He had delivered the Jews from slavery to the Egyptians. To pressure the Pharaoh to let His people go, God demonstrated His power over Egypt through 10 plagues. The last being the plague of the firstborn or the Passover. The Israelites were instructed to care for a young lamb for 11 days, taking it into their house. Then on the 11th day, they would sacrifice the lamb and eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Then they were told to take the blood of the lamb and put it over the doors of their homes. When the Lord's Passover angel saw the blood on the door, he would passover that house. Yet, if anyone didn't have the blood on their doors, the angel would enter and take the life of the firstborn of each home.

Therefore, each year the Israelites ate the Passover meal to remember the great sacrifice for their freedom.

READ *Mark 14:12-26*

Paul tells us that very early on when the church met together, they would remember how Jesus gave His life for us by taking The Lord's Supper together. (1 Cor. 11:23-26) It became a regular part of their time together. It was a physical reminder in the bread and the cup of Jesus' body being broken on the cross (the bread) for our sin and his blood (the cup) being spilled for us. Therefore, each time we take it, we remember the great sacrifice of Jesus death that freed us from our sin.

REPENT



READ *Mark 14:12-26*

In Paul's letter to the church at Corinth teaching them about The Lord's Supper, he warned them that taking the Supper in a wrong way meant asking for God's judgement.

What exactly does that mean?

Well, according to Paul's letter, there are two ways to dishonor Jesus' sacrifice. Paul shares that there were some members of the church who were impatient in waiting for other members (most likely the poorer) of the church to come. Instead of waiting to show that they were all just as unworthy of what Jesus had done for them, some of the church members in Corinth decided to eat and drink without the others.

Paul also makes it clear that one person in the church in particular was doing something sinful and didn't care. In both of these situations, Paul was pleading for the church to repent.

The word repent means that we recognize we have sinned and messed up going our own way instead of God's way. Then we ask God to forgive us (and sometimes others who we've hurt too) asking Him to help us go the way He wants us too. It's like walking in one direction, our way, and then recognizing it's the wrong way. We apologize to God and then begin walking the way He wants us to go.

When Jesus gave His most famous sermon, He said that if we were in the middle of worshiping God and remembered that we had done something wrong to someone, we should stop and first go make things right with them. (Matt. 5:23-24). The Lord's Supper isn't just about us. It's about the church- the people who love and follow Jesus being united and together.

REJOICE



Finally, when we take the bread and the cup together we are not only remembering a long history of how God has saved His people, but we also look forward to when Jesus comes back again and we get to celebrate with Him in His new kingdom here on earth.

Did you know we are going to have a party when Jesus returns?

The apostle John tells us in Revelation 19 that all those who have trusted in Jesus (His bride) will be dressed in clothes that are brilliantly white and will get to have a dinner with Him. In other words, it's gonna be a big party. And why shouldn't it be? Jesus has paid the sin debt that we owed. He took on Himself all our sin. We are now forgiven and get to be with God forever. That is definitely reason to celebrate!

For everyone who believes that Jesus died for their sin and rose again, we celebrate and rejoice because Jesus has saved us. He has taken us from death to life.

STEPS FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER



After discussing the why of the Lord's Supper, you can easily follow these steps to take it at home. ***Remember, only those who have trusted in what Christ has done should take this meal together.**

1. Make sure to prepare the elements with some bread and grape juice.
2. Get everyone together in your home, maybe around the living room or at the dining room table.
3. Read one of the The Lord's Supper passages like Mark 14:12–26 or 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.
4. Talk and pray about what The Lord's Supper means. Use the Remember, Repent, Rejoice guide on the other side if needed.
5. Hand the elements of bread and the cup to everyone who can take it (those who have trusted in Jesus as their Savior)
6. Take, eat and drink.
7. If you want to, you could close by singing a song together.

THE LORD'S SUPPER



TAKE HOME RESOURCE

Remember. Repent. Rejoice.