

The Lord's Supper

Preparing Ourselves, 1st Corinthians 11:23-29



Preparing Ourselves

- When you look back over your Christian life, what name pops into your mind as being the most influential?
 - Nancy Freeman pointed me to Scripture
 - Ava Lee Nichols pointed me to Jesus
 - Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility

Preparing Ourselves

- We have been preparing for the observance of The Lord's Supper next Sunday
 - It is grounded in or tethered to the Old Testament and to really understand what Jesus is doing with this ordinance and the cross you must go there
 - We've seen that Jesus is the bread of all the grace, mercy, forgiveness, salvation flowing from God to us personally
 - He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament

Preparing Ourselves

- We have been preparing for the observance of The Lord's Supper next Sunday
 - We have seen it points to our secure salvation through the New Covenant
 - The Righteousness of our Heavenly Father
 - The Sinless Offering of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for payment of our sin/rebellion debt
 - The Sealing of the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption

Preparing Ourselves

- The question today is, “What is to be my mindset before taking the Lord’s Supper?”
 - Everything God does is important
 - Every word in Scripture is important
 - How should I prepare myself personally to observe the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner?”
 - We will let the three words from Ava Lee Nichols lead us this morning - Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility

Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 11:23-29 NIV**, “23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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.” 25 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.”

Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 11:23-29 NIV**, 27 So then, 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.
 - 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.”

Preparing Ourselves

- “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you”
 - Paul was not physically present when Jesus instituted this ordinance, but the Apostles Peter, John, and Matthew were and they speak of it in their Gospels, Peter being the primary source for Mark and Luke
 - Paul either received this instruction by direct revelation from Jesus himself, or he accepted it from the apostleship of Peter
 - Paul is a man who hated Jesus, hated the Church, hated to Gospel of Jesus Christ telling us, the Lord’s Supper is important and how we observe it is important

Preparing Ourselves

- Two times we are instructed to “Do this in remembrance of me.”
 - Do not forget what has been provided for your salvation
 - Don’t let the importance slip down your important list
 - Bring it to the forefront of our mind, plant it deep within our memory
 - Remember what Jesus has done for the forgiveness of your sins
 - Also remember the grace and mercy given us under the New Covenant or new way to be acceptable before a Holy, Righteous, Just God

Preparing Ourselves

- What are we doing when we observe the Lord's Supper?
 - **1st Corinthians 11:23-29 NIV**, “26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”
 - Proclaim in Greek - to announce throughout or to announce far and wide or to herald or to make a public announcement like announcing the King coming to your town
 - John the Baptist heralded the coming of the Messiah
 - **Matthew 3:1-3 NIV**, 1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

Preparing Ourselves

- What are we doing when we observe the Lord's Supper?
 - Paul is speaking of heralding the facts of the Gospel of Jesus
 - **1st Corinthians 15:3-8 NIV**, 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas (*Peter*), and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Preparing Ourselves

- What are we doing when we observe the Lord's Supper?
 - Not only are we heralding the facts, but we are proclaiming to the world, "I have accepted these truths as facts and have accepted Jesus into my life as Savior and Lord"
 - **Acts 4:12 ESV**, "12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Preparing Ourselves

- **1st Corinthians 11:27 NIV**, So then, 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.
 - What is this verse saying?
 - We must be careful how we observe the Lord's Supper to keep from sinning when we take it
 - Unworthy – Unfit, careless, useless, incompetent, not acceptable, having little personal value

Preparing Ourselves

- **1st Corinthians 11:27 NIV**, So then, 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.
 - Paul writes that blatant ungodliness while eating the bread and drinking the cup of the Lord's Supper will cause them to be guilty of sinning against the blood and body of Christ
 - The Corinthian Christians had been doing exactly that: using the Lord's Supper gathering as a party, with the wealthy believers behaving poorly and treating the poorer believers badly
 - **Galatians 6:7 ESV**, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”

Preparing Ourselves

- What should each of us do before taking the Lord's Supper?
 - **1st Corinthians 11:28-29 NIV**, "28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves."
 - **MSG, 27-29** Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on him at his death. Is that the kind of "remembrance" you want to be part of? Examine your motives, test your heart, come to this meal in holy awe. If you give no thought (or worse, don't care) about the broken body of the Master when you eat and drink, you're running the risk of serious consequences.

Preparing Ourselves

- What should each of us do before taking the Lord's Supper?
 - **1st Corinthians 11:28-29 NIV**, "28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves."
 - Greek Examine – to test for purity like gold or silver
 - Have I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior?
 - Does my life line up with the teachings in Scripture, not in perfection but desire?
 - Is there sin in my life that Scripture has confronted me with that I refuse to address?

Preparing Ourselves

- What should each of us do before taking the Lord's Supper?
 - **1st Corinthians 11:28-29 NIV**, "28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves."
 - Greek discerning the body of Christ - to understand what is good and what is evil, what is false versus what is true
 - **1st Thessalonians 5:21-22 NIV**, 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.
 - To recognize and appreciate the body and blood of Jesus given for you

Preparing Ourselves

- What should each of us do before taking the Lord's Supper?
 - **1st Corinthians 11:28-29 NIV**, "28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves."
 - If a person proclaims Jesus' death, but is disobedient to the gospel, that person is essentially daring God to judge them
 - "Eat and drink judgment on themselves"
 - Not condemnation but God's discipline which can seem harsh
 - Remember God brought snakes against a stubborn, rebellious Israel in the desert

Preparing Ourselves

- However, you read this, it is important to **NOT** take the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner
 - Well Randy, I'm not going to take the risk and just won't observe the Lord's Supper next week
 - Wrong mindset or way of thinking
 - God longs to fellowship with you through the Lord's Supper
 - We need the fellowship of God, and the only way is to repent and prepare our hearts

So how can I observe the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

- It begins with **Reverence** toward a Holy, Righteous, Just God
 - Reverence is honor and respect that is deeply felt and outwardly demonstrated
 - Because of the Lord God's awesome power and majesty, He is deserving of the highest level of reverence
 - The Bible records reverence as the automatic response of everyone who encounters the awesome grandeur of the Lord God Almighty (*fear and prostrating oneself*)
 - Holy of holies - The purpose of such strict rules was to define holiness and impress upon mankind the necessity for reverence in the presence the Lord
 - God is not to be trifled with

So how can I observe the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

- It continues with the **Respect** that must be given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
 - The opposite of taking them lightly
 - To value highly, to admire and think of often
 - A deep sense of worth and esteem
 - A deep respect for what Jesus has done
 - Leaving the glories of heaven, walking in my shoes
 - Living a sinless life, willingly going to the cross, rising from the grave
 - Offering me eternal life by promising to prepare a place for me then promising to come back to take me home

So how can I observe the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

- We understand it is my personal **Responsibility** to get myself ready to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner
 - To strive to know, with ever increasing depth, the person of Jesus Christ
 - To learn to love Jesus with all our heart, mind, strength
 - To strive to live daily more like the person of Jesus Christ by living His commands, to be a disciple
 - To live in constant awareness and obedience to His Word and Ways
 - To keep repentance close for those times I stray

So how can I observe the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

- We understand it is my personal **Responsibility** to get myself ready to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner
- Learning to accept as mine **Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV**, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established (*grounded*) in (*God's*) love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (*for you*), 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Preparing Ourselves

- **Psalm 139:23-24 NIV**, “23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
 - **MSG**, “Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I’m about; See for yourself whether I’ve done anything wrong— then guide me on the road to eternal life.”
 - Reveal to me who I really am
 - Pull my life apart and reveal all my hidden secrets
 - Then, lead me in the way of Eternal Life and I will follow

Preparing Ourselves

- Be getting your self ready this week starting with today
 - Satan does not want you to get yourself ready so prepare yourself for a hard week as you struggle with your *“sin that so easily entangles”*
 - Keep repentance close
 - Keep asking for God to reveal Himself to you in ever increasing glory
 - Make time for God this week
 - Don't' listen to your adversary's voice saying you are not worthy
 - Remember, God knows your heart and desires and is the only one with the wisdom and authority to declare you worthy

The Lord's Supper

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