

*Celebrating The
Lord's Supper*



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- **Luke 22:14-15 NIV**, 14 When the (*Passover*) hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”
 - Eagerly desired – Pregnant with expectation, full of anticipated enthusiastic rejoicing, serious, determined
 - Like a pregnant young mother expecting her first child
 - There will be a period of pain and agony but there is an expectant joyous result at the end of pain

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 - Knowing what is ahead the next day, how could Jesus be enthusiastic?
 - Jesus didn't stop at the arrest in the garden
 - ❖ He didn't stop at the beatings by the Religious Leaders
 - ❖ He didn't stop at the nailing to and dying on the cross being associated with two thieves
 - ❖ He didn't stop at having to borrow a tomb
 - He looked all the way through to the victory as He defeated sin, death, guilt and the grave when He rose from the dead

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- **1st Corinthians 15:54-57 NIV**, “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - **MSG**, Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who’s afraid of you now?
 - It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!
- This is what we are here to celebrate this morning, the victory of Jesus Christ

The table is a celebration of victory

- **Revelation 12:10-11 NIV**, 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
 - “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.
 - Hurlled down – to cast away forcefully with little to no resistance
 - 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell (*and will dwell*) in them!
 - **Romans 8:3 NIV**, For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

The table is a proclamation of redemption

- **1st Corinthians 11:26 NIV**, For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
 - I proclaim not just the physical death but the impact of that death on my life which is my salvation and my redemption
 - By taking the bread and the cup, I proclaim that Jesus purchased life for me
 - I proclaim I am sharing in His death by faith, so I can share in His life by faith and with every other believer – communion (*sharing in common*)

The table is a place for self examination

- **1st Corinthians 11:28 NIV**, Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
 - Why?
 - We are saved and then called by Jesus to be His disciple
 - ✓ **Matthew 4:19 NIV**, “Come follow me and I will make you”
 - Because Jesus wants you to have a periodic review with Him to see how your discipleship with Him is coming along
 - If we judge ourselves and take action to correct then He will not need to correct us

The table is a place for self examination

- **1st Corinthians 11:28 NIV**, Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
 - Who is worthy to come to the Lord's Table?
 - Nobody, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - We are declared worthy by our Lord and Master Jesus Christ when we come to Him with a repentant heart and faith in what He has provided
 - It is never earned, but freely given

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- We are called to celebrate His victory over the powers of darkness
 - To Proclaim His redemptive work in our lives
 - To Declare our dependence upon Him
 - To Receive every blessing that His sacrifice for us has provided
 - To Examine ourselves that we might grow as His disciples
 - Let's do that now as we prepare ourselves to come to His table

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- **1st Corinthians 11: 23-24 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.”

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- **1st Corinthians 11: 25 NIV**, 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”.

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- **1st Corinthians 11: 25 NIV**, 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.”
- **1st Corinthians 11: 26 NIV** 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- **Matthew 25:30 NIV**, When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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