

THE POWER OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Text: Matthew 26:17, 26-29

Introduction:

1. The Lord's Supper is a vital part of the Christian's life and worship.
2. Yet, there are things about it that are often misunderstood or misrepresented in the religious world.
3. But, when it is understood and participated in scripturally, it has a powerful influence in one's life.

I. The Principles of the Lord's Supper

- A. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus.
- B. The Lord's Supper consists of two elements or emblems:
 1. Unleavened Bread
 - a. At the time of Passover, no leaven was allowed in Jewish houses.
 - b. The unleavened bread symbolizes the sinlessness of Jesus.
 - c. The bread represents the body of Jesus that was sacrificed for sin.
 2. Fruit of the Vine
 - a. The usual Greek word for wine is never used.
 - b. It is the juice of the grape, symbolizing the purity of Jesus' blood.
 - c. The juice represents the blood of Jesus offered for sin.
 - d. *Note Matt. 26:28 – "*for the remission of sins*"
- C. The Lord's Supper is partaken of in the Lord's Kingdom – the church.
- D. The Lord's Supper is communion with the Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 10:16).
- E. The Lord's Supper is partaken of each first day of the week when the church is assembled for worship (Acts 20:7).

II. The Perverting of the Lord's Supper

- A. The Lord's Supper does not have the power to forgive sins.
 1. Some claim this because it is connected to the blood of Jesus.
 2. The blood of Jesus washes away sin in baptism (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:9).
 3. John 6:26-36, 48-69; cf. Matt. 4:4
- B. The Lord's Supper does not have the power heal the sick (1 Cor. 11:30).
 1. Some will give communion to the sick in an attempt to heal them.
 2. This passage is speaking of spiritual sickness due to their sinful attitudes and corrupt worship.
- C. The Lord's Supper does not have the power to substitute for other acts of worship.

III. The Power of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-31)

- A. The power of unity (vs. 17-22; cf. Matt. 5:23-24; Jam. 3:14-18; Eph. 4:1-6)
- B. The power of memorial (vs. 23-25)
- C. The power of hope (vs. 26)
- D. The power of examination (vs. 27-31)