

THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

The Wonder of Communion in Worship (Series #3)

Luke 22:7-23, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Robert Dunn, Associate Pastor

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QUESTION... Do you remember the first time you celebrated communion?

KEY CONCEPT... The Lord's Supper as taught by Jesus is a wondrous and vital part of Christian worship.

SIGNIFICANT WORD... "Lord's Supper"...Passover Seder, Last Supper, Communion, Eucharist, Common Table

THE WONDER OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- How is it...?
 - * That in the unleavened bread...
 - * That in small cup of juice or wine...
 - * These tiny portions...
 - * That in the few moments...
 - * There is divine wonder in worship

HOW DID PASSOVER BECOME THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- Passover ...Exodus 12...A celebration meal to remember Israel's deliverance from Egyptian slavery by God.
- Lord's Supper...Luke 22:7-23...A celebration meal to remember our deliverance from slavery to sin by Christ.

THE POWER OF SYMBOLS...

- Head table, swastika, national flags, rainbow, cross, wedding ring
- Unleavened bread and unfermented new wine...bread of affliction, cup of blessing

THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- Regularly celebrated in the early church in homes Acts 2:42+, 20:7
- Integrated into a fellowship meal
- Considered part of their worship
- A symbolic re-enactment of Christ's death

APOSTLE PAUL'S COMPLAINT

REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER IN THE CORINTH CHURCH

- "There are divisions among you."
- "I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if your meetings do more harm than good." 11:17
- "There are divisions among you when you meet as a church." 11:18
- "When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper" 11:20
- "You hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others." 11:21
- "Some go hungry, some get drunk." 11:21b
- "You disgrace God's church and shame the poor." 11:22

- "I will not praise you for this!" 11:22
- Their "table manners" at the Lord's table were disgraceful
- They lost the divine wonder of the Lord's Supper!

PAUL'S OBJECTIONS WERE NOT ABOUT...

- Social distinctions...they will always exist
 - Higher class always had a better menu and an inner room to eat
 - But social distinctions were flaunted during the Lord's Supper in Corinth
- The kind of matzoh or the quality of the wine
- How often they celebrated the Lord's Supper

PAUL'S CONCERNS WERE MORE ABOUT THEIR...

- Segregation more than participation
- Exclusion more than inclusion
- Privileged more than less privileged
- "Spiritual" over less spiritual people

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE & PAUL'S GUIDANCE FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

- "Gave thanks to God for it" 11:24
- "Broke the bread into pieces" 11:24
- "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."
- "In the same way...This cup is the new covenant between God and his people...an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it." 11:25
- Paul said, "For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again. 11:26
- Paul said, "Examine yourself" 11:28,31

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A...

- Reminder of our past redemption through the saving death of Christ (The Lord has come)
- Reminder of our present reconciliation in Christ (The Lord is with us now)
- Reminder of our future salvation when Christ comes (The Lord will come again)

OUR TABLE MANNERS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Open table...all may come...always room for one more
- Thankfulness...for these symbols of love and reconciliation
- Repentance...of our sin
- Forgiveness...of others
- Togetherness...in community
- Affirmation...Christ is enough

THE WONDER OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN WORSHIP

An outward celebration that God is doing something wondrous inside my life.