

In Remembrance of Me
I Corinthians 11:23-34
Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019 am

There is much debate regarding the Lord's Supper. What does it mean? How should it be done? How often should it be observed? Who should participate? The answers are really quite plain from the Scripture. We can say, "Paul, you weren't there." He would say, "That's right. That's why the Lord gave me special instruction.

Real I Corinthians 11:23-34.

Let's look at some thoughts this morning about the observance of the Lord's Supper.

I. **It is an Ordinance Not a Sacrament**

- a. An ordinance is something that is ordered or ordained.
- b. A sacrament is a specific means of obtaining grace.
- c. The Lord's Supper can't be a sacrament because:
 - i. There is no grace to be obtained by the lost
 - ii. There is no more grace to be had by the saved

II. **It is a Symbol Not a Reality**

- a. The elements of it picture His body and blood
- b. The elements of it do not become His body and blood they just represent them both
 - i. If that were so it would represent a form of cannibalism
 - ii. What if it did become His body and blood, there is still nothing more to gain and nothing more to earn.

III. It is a Celebration Not a Ceremony

- a. It focuses on His death and we celebrate the fact that He died on the cross for us.
- b. It is different from baptism which points to His death and resurrection.
 - i. Without the resurrection, His death is pointless
 - ii. Without His death, the resurrection is impossible
- c. When we participate, we celebrate His death and all that it means.

IV. It is an Experience Not a Routine

- a. It is not something to be observed by mere rote and should not become a ritual, but a personal experience and a celebration.
- b. It is designed to be a spiritual experience – not to be saved but to celebrate the fact that because of the giving of His body and blood – we are saved.
 - i. It should touch our minds through the exercise of memory.
 - ii. It should touch our emotions through what is remembered.
 - iii. It should touch our spirits through our minds and emotions.

V. It is an Examination Not an Observance

- a. We do not come merely to look again at His death
- b. We come to face a critical question: Was His death in vain?
- c. Other questions define that question:
 - i. Do I have the initial right to participate?
 - ii. Am I in a condition to participate?

iii. Am I obedient to the Lord?

iv. Am I right with ~~God~~ and with other people?
Him

There are three practices of communion:

- Closed – which allows on those who are members of the church to participate.
- Open – which allows anyone who wishes – but according to the Scriptures that only includes those who are saved.

Whatever the practice – a particular approach is advisable.

Instead of saying, “You are welcome to participate,” – we need to say according to the Scriptures, “*Are you welcome to participate?*”