

# Week Eight

Quarter 3

The Lord's Supper

Worship

# Outline

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# The Lord's Supper

- Also known as Communion or the Eucharist
- Instituted by Jesus:
  - “Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom’” (Matt 26:26-29)

# Background in the History of Redemption (1)

- Paul added to Jesus' words by quoting Jesus:
  - “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (1 Cor 11:25)
- Is there any more background on eating in God's presence?
  - “The Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they say the God of Israel...they beheld God, and ate and drank” (Ex 24:9-11)
  - “Before the Lord your God, in the place which He will choose, to make His name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstlings of your herd and flock; that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always...You shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household” (Deut 14:23,26)
  - Every meal that Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden would have been in the presence of the Lord

# Background in the History of Redemption (2)

- Mankind started eating and fellowshiping with God directly
- Sin broke that
- Feasts were an effort to partially restore what was lost
- Communion is another step in that direction
- The final goal will be a restoration of what was
  - “I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matt 26:29)
  - “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb’” (Rev 19:9)

# The Meaning of the Lord's Supper (1)

- Symbolizes Christ's death
  - “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes” (1 Cor 11:26)
- Participating in the benefits of Christ's death
  - “Take, eat; this is My body” (Matt 26:26)
- Spiritual nourishment
  - “So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.’” (John 6:53-57)

# The Meaning of the Lord's Supper (2)

- Unity of believers
  - “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (1 Cor 10:17)
- Christ affirms His love for me
  - Jesus invites me to come and participate
- Christ affirms that all the blessings of salvation are reserved for me
  - In this supper I am actually eating and drinking as a foretaste of the great banquet table of the King (pg 991)
- I affirm my faith in Christ
  - By partaking, I am proclaiming “I need You and trust You, Lord Jesus, to forgive my sins and give life and health to my soul, for only by your broken body and shed blood can I be saved” (ibid)

# How is Christ Present in the Lord's Supper? → Roman Catholic View

- Transubstantiation – the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ
- Grace is received by the partakers *ex opere operato*
- They see communion as a continuation of a “single uninterrupted sacrificial act of the Transfigured Christ” (pg 993)
- Rebuttal
  - Jesus spoke as symbols many times
    - “I am the true vine” (John 15:1)
    - “I am the door” (John 10:9)
    - “I am the bread which came down from heaven” (John 6:41)
  - Jesus’ work of atonement is already final and complete (Heb 9:25-28, 10:3; John 19:30; Rom 8:1)

# How is Christ Present in the Lord's Supper? → Lutheran View

- The physical body of Christ is present “in, with, and under” the bread of the Lord's supper (pg 994)
  - As water is present in a sponge
  - “The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?” (1 Cor 10:16)
- Hence leads to a teaching of ubiquity – Christ's human nature was present everywhere
- Rebuttal
  - Again misses the symbolism
    - If so, then Jesus should have said “This accompanies My body”
  - Jesus' human body is not present everywhere → His divine nature is

# How is Christ Present in the Lord's Supper? → Rest of Protestantism

- The bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Christ
- We expect Christ Himself to be present in a special way
  - We meet Him at His table, to which He comes to give Himself to us
- We must not say that Christ is present apart from our personal faith, but only meets and blesses us there in accordance with our faith in Him (pg 996)

# Who Should Participate in the Lord's Supper?

- Only those who believe in Christ
- Those who participate unworthily face serious consequences
  - “For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died” (1 Cor 11:29-30)
- Should the people have to be baptized first?
  - If the Lord's Supper symbolized the continuing of a Christian life and baptism the beginning of such, then many conclude baptism is required
  - Grudem and others believe that order is not critical as long as the person in question is actively seeking to be baptized
  - If baptism directly followed rebirth, this would not be an issue

# Self-Examination

- “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself” (1 Cor 11:27-29)
- Paul is rebuking for selfish, inconsiderate conduct toward each other while they were at the Lord’s table
- Anyone about to partake should evaluate their relationships with the body of Christ and if any action should be taken (see Matt 5:23-24)
- The church leadership should teach this clearly

# Other Questions

- Who should administer the Lord's Supper?
  - Scripture has no explicit teaching
  - In order to guard against abuse, responsible leaders should be in charge of administering it
  - There is no reason why a women should not do it
- How often should it be celebrated
  - Churches vary widely
    - Weekly
    - Twice / month
    - Monthly
    - Four times / year
  - Celebrating it too often has little downside as long as it does not become a meaningless ritual

# Worship

- For this study, Grudem narrowly defines worship as:
  - the activity of glorifying God in His presence with our voices and hearts
  - (especially when Christians are assembled together)
- Paul encouraged the Christians in Colossae, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col 3:16)
- God’s immediate goal of getting Israel out of Egypt was to bring His people into His presence that they might hear His voice and worship Him
  - “Let my people go, so that they may worship Me in the desert” (Ex 7:16b)

# The Purpose of Worship

- “Israelites are a nation formed for worship, called to assemble in the courts of the Lord, and to praise together the name of the Most High” (pg 1004)
  - God established three yearly festivals for celebration, feasting, and worship
  - Note that instead of worshipping God, many turned toward idols
- God is worthy of worship and we are not
  - When John fell down to worship an angel, the angel said to him, “You must not do that!...Worship God.” (Rev 22:8-9)
  - “I the Lord your God am a jealous God” (Ex 20:5)
  - “My glory I will not give to another” (Is 48:11)
  - “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created” (Rev 4:11)
- It is right that God seeks His own honor, hence our worship should all be focused on Him (Note 6, bottom of 1005)

# The Results of Genuine Worship (1)

- We delight in God
  - David confesses that the “one thing” that he will seek above all else is “that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple” (Ps 27:4)
  - “In Your presence there is fullness of joy, in Your right hand are pleasures for evermore” (Ps 16:11)
  - “Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides You” (Ps 73:25)
  - The early church, “day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all people” (Acts 2:46)
  - This is only a foretaste of what is to come (eternal praise in heaven)

# Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord;

My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God...  
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever  
singing your praise!...

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand  
elsewhere.

# The Results of Genuine Worship (2)

- God delights in us
  - When God created man, He saw that “it was very good” (Gen 1:31)
  - “You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord...you shall be called My delight is in her...for the Lord delights in you...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you” (Is 62:3-5)
  - “The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.” (Zeph 3:17)
  - The deepest joy of love is the joy of bringing delight to the heart of the one you love (pg 1007)

# The Results of Genuine Worship (3)

- We draw near to God
  - This is an amazing unseen reality of New Covenant worship
    - In the Old Covenant, believers could only draw near to God in a limited way through temple ceremonies
    - “We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus” (Heb 10:19)
  - Genuine worship is in the presence of God Himself
  - “Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:28-29)

# Hebrews 12:18-24

For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them...But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

# The Results of Genuine Worship (4)

- God draws near to us
  - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8)
  - “Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel” (Ps 22:3)
  - He filled the temple with His glory when it was dedicated (2 Chron 5:13-14)
- God ministers to us
  - Christians are “being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:5)
  - As we “draw near to the throne of grace” we will “receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16)
  - We can expect Him to meet us and minister to us during a time of corporate worship

# The Results of Genuine Worship (5)

- The Lord's enemies flee
  - “He appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise Him in holy array, as they went before the army...and when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men...so that they were routed” (2 Chron 20:21-22)
  - We can expect the Lord to battle against demonic forces that oppose the gospel and cause them to flee
- Unbelievers know they are in God's presence
  - Paul tells the Corinthians to think about unbelievers that come to their services, making sure that it is understandable (1 Cor 14:23)
  - If the gift of prophecy is functioning properly, unbelievers will fall on their faces and “worship God and declare that God is really among you” (1 Cor 14:25)
  - While this is not a primary purpose, it is a healthy side effect

# The Eternal Value of Worship

- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:15-16)
- Yet, worship is NOT a waste of time
  - “but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart” (Eph 5:18-19)
- Hence, worshiping is doing the will of God
  - “To the only god, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever” (Jude 25)
- The fact that worship is an activity of great significance and eternal value is also evident in the fact that it is the primary activity carried on by those who are already in heaven (Rev 4:8-11; 5:11-14)

# How Can We Enter Into Genuine Worship? (1)

- Ultimately worship is a spiritual activity and must be empowered by the Holy Spirit working within us
  - “The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24)
  - Means “in the spiritual realm, in the realm of spiritual activity” since the context is about where to worship
  - Mary exclaimed “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47)
- Genuine worship is done in response to a realization of who God is
  - “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory” (Is 6:3)
  - When Jesus calmed the storm, “those in the boat worshiped Him” (Mark 14:33)

# How Can We Enter Into Genuine Worship? (2)

- Grudem states that in many evangelical churches, true worship does not happen until after the message has been preached and the last hymn is being sung
  - This should just be the beginning!
- How do we make worship more effective?
  - Prayer in preparation of worship
  - Teaching on the nature of worship
  - Individuals need to make right any broken interpersonal relationships
    - Men are supposed to lift holy hands “without anger or quarreling” (1 Tim 2:8)
    - We are to leave the altar and make right with a brother before offering a sacrifice (Matt 5:24)
    - We cannot say “I love God” and hate our brother (1 John 4:20)
  - Striving for personal holiness of life
    - We are to strive for “the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb 12:14)
    - Jesus said that the “pure in heart” are the ones who will “see God” (Matt 5:8)

# Physical Setting and Structure Do Matter

- Jesus cleansed the temple from the money-changers (Matt 21:12-13)
- “When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret” (Matt 6:6)
- We should choose a setting for prayer or for worship that avoids distractions as much as possible
- Note on multiple “forms” of worship
  - Differences exist from structured liturgies to unstructured charismatic services
  - Scripture does not prescribe any form
  - Christians should not dismiss any forms
    - We should keep an open mind to variety
    - Any one form, when used excessively, can become meaningless for many participants
- Songs in the second person can be especially effective

# Components of a Worship Service

- Each requires a certain amount of time to be effective
  - Each requires a change in attitude / state of mind
  - Insufficient time for any one leads to people not getting the full spiritual benefit from it
- Components – Attitude
  - Teaching – attentiveness
  - Praise – joy and focus on the Lord
  - Prayers – focus on needs and deep concern for others
  - Offering – focus on sacrificing ourselves to the Lord
  - Lord's Supper – reflection, self-examination, thanksgiving

# Application

- Are you examining your relationships before partaking in the Lord's Supper?
- Where is your heart during times of worship?

# Reading For Next Week

- Chapter 52
  - Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1): General Questions
    - Homework – questions 1-6