

Why We Can Partake Of The Lord's Supper

A Communion Message

1Co 10:15-18; 15 ¶ "I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread. 18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?"

In both Matthew and Mark, when Jesus had broken bread and served it, and poured wine and served it, then they sang a hymn and went out. This indicates that the original passover supper was ended, when Jesus instituted, what we call the Communion Service. It is called the *Lord's table* in **1Co 10:21 "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."** And it is called the *Lord's supper* in **1Co 11:20 "When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper."**

Did you notice that Paul is addressing wise men? Who are the wise? We see in: **Pr 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."** We find in the New Testament in: **2Ti 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."** Wise men are those who recognize that Jesus is the Christ, and believe the bible is the word of God.

What gives us the right today to Lord's Supper? Notice in **1Co 10:18** the reference to Israel eating of the sacrifices of the altar. When a person was making a sacrificial offering, they would enter the tabernacle courtyard where the brazen altar of sacrifice was. They were met there by the priests, who performed the sacrifice as commanded by God. Some sacrifices were completely burned up. Some were partially burned, and a portion was reserved for the priest and their families. Some were partially burned, a portion was reserved for the priest and their families, and some was reserved for the one making the offering, to be eaten by them and their family. These were the peace offerings, which also included the vow, thanksgiving, and freewill offerings.

Jesus Christ, acting as High Priest and as demanded by God, offered his body as the sacrifice for the remission of sins. This sacrifice of Jesus's body became a peace offering on our behalf. This offering satisfied the vow, covenant, between God the Father and God the Son, for God the Son to save all the Father gave him from their sins. For us, Jesus's sacrifice of himself is a peace offering, because of the peace Jesus made for us with God the Father, seen in: **Col 1:20; 19 "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unrepentant in his sight."** The sacrifice of Christ serves as a vow offering, because when we unite with the organized church, we are vowing to faithfully observe the Lord's supper: The sacrifice of Christ serves as a thanksgiving offering, for the gratitude we are to have for the finished work of Jesus: and the sacrifice of Christ serves as a free will offering, because we should be freely willing to be full time disciples of Christ, and not absent ourselves from the communion of the Lord's Supper.

We know that the bread was unleavened at the passover feast because of what God had commanded, seen in: **Ex 12:19 "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land."** Why no leaven in the bread? Generally, leaven is a picture of sin in the bible. As they used no leaven at the passover supper: likewise, the body of Jesus was without sin, which body he offered as a sacrifice, for the eternal remission of the sins of God's people.

Jesus told us that he was the bread of life and that his body was the bread offered, seen in: **Lu 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."** Therefore, we use unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper.

What about the cup and leaven, or as we know leaven, yeast? We know that grapes have yeast, leaven, in their skins. Wherefore, if you only squeezed the grapes and drank the juice, you would be drinking juice that contained yeast. We know that to make wine: you put the grapes in a proper container, then add sugar to the grapes, and then you wait. In fermentation, the yeast in the grapes feeds upon the sugar, which causes the

process of fermentation, which produces the wine. When the fermentation process stops, it means that all the yeast is now dead. Therefore, there is no leaven in the wine.

The waiting, in the process of wine making, demonstrates our living as disciples of Christ in the world, until we are taken by death, because our flesh still has the sin nature. In the resurrection of the dead in Christ, we see manifested that the completion of the fermentation process, the complete removal of all leaven, sin, in our resurrected bodies.

While upon the cross, our sins were laid upon Jesus, who became sin for us, seen in: **2Co 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** Our sins, the yeast or leaven, were put upon Christ who was sinless. Mingled with the sweetness of the love that Jesus had for us: we see a picture of the fermentation process taking place. Jesus could not die until the fermentation process was completed, and the leaven of our sins, was dead. Another reason demonstrating why, at the time of his death on the cross, Jesus said, "**it is finished.**" Wherefore, when Jesus gave the cup as an emblem of his blood, we can now understand that our sins are indeed dead to us forever, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The new creature, created by the implantation of Christ in us, is sinless, which gives us the right to drink from the cup. We see this in: **1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."** Remember, when we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are to do it in remembrance of Jesus.

1Co 10:18 "Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?" Surely, we can see that the law rituals were a shadow of that which was to come. A shadow is not the thing itself, but when light shines upon the thing itself, then a shadow is cast. Surely, we can now see that the real thing is Jesus Christ, our sacrifice for sins, our High Priest, our King, our Saviour, and our God.

We pray that you understand why Jesus said: that the bread was his body, which was sinless: and the wine was his blood, which was also sinless and pure. Because the body of Jesus was the sacrifice of the peace offering, of which the offeror has the God given right to eat thereof. When we come to the Lord's Supper, we are remembering the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We have the right to eat and drink thereof, because Jesus has made us accepted in the Beloved.

As a child of God, you have Christ in you in the form of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, you, as an offeror of the sacrifice of Christ to God the Father, are given the right to eat of the Lord's Supper. This is why Jesus told us in: **1Co 11:24-25; 24 "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."** May we never forget; The freewill offering, of the body of Jesus, is the one sacrifice made for the remission of our sins, which not only gave us the privilege to eat of the Lord's Supper: but also makes us worthy to be raised from the dead, or changed, into a sinless body. Let us give thanks and praise to our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!