

The Instruction in the Lord's Table
I Corinthians 11:23-31

Introduction

- A. The ordinances of the Church, baptism and the Lord's Table, are visual presentations of the Gospel. They have been designed to teach us some of the basic truths of redemption.
- B. When God established the Passover He said that it was to serve as a "memorial" Exodus 12:14. As the Israelites partook of the Passover each year they were to "remember" the truths related to the Exodus.
- C. The Lord's Table has been given to us for a similar reason. Two significant statements emphasize this truth.
 - 1. "In remembrance of me." I Cor. 13:24,25
 - 2. "Ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." V26

I. We Are To Remember Who He is - The Lord God Incarnate.

- A. We must struggle to understand that the One Who was born of the virgin very and died for us on the cross - the One we are to "remember"! in partaking of Communion - is God Incarnate.
- B. It is astounding but true - the One Who has assumed our cause - the One Who volunteered to deliver us and get us to Heaven is none other than God Himself.
- C. Our only appropriate response to this truth is worship.

II. We are to Remember Why He came - The Seriousness of Sin.

- A. Because of the effects of the Fall and the blindness that accompanies sin. - no one understands how serious our state really is.
- B. To sin against the Holy and Infinite God is to place our self in a position of eternal jeopardy. The sinner is in a spiritual condition that is hopeless and where he is helpless. The only reason that is not the condition of the Christian - is because of Jesus Christ.
- C. Our only appropriate response to this truth is confession.

III. We are to Remember How He Atoned - The Act of Substitution.

- A. There are times when we as humans act as a substitute for one another. We can speak for another, pay the debt of another, take the penalty of someone else, and serve as a substitute.
- B. When it comes to redemption, however, not even a mighty angel could pay our debt before God. Only God Himself - by calling upon His infinite power - could act as our substitute. Jesus Christ died in our place.
- C. Our only appropriate response to this truth is thanksgiving.

IV. We Are to Remember What Happened on the Cross -Infinite Suffering.

- A. There are many kinds of suffering – and the Lord Jesus suffered them all. He said His body was to be "broken" and His blood was to be "shed."
- B. We can only imagine the death of suffering He endured – mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually – in Gethsemane, the betrayal, the mockery, the forsaking, the scourging, the denial, and then the Crucifixion.
- C. Our only appropriate response to this truth is sorrow.

V. We Are to Remember What was Produced in the Crucifixion – the Grace of God.

- A. Because the Savior died as our Substitute – the value of His death can be transferred to another – as a gift of Grace.
- B. The word "covenant" reminds us of this great truth. In His mercy God has given to every believer all the promises of the New Covenant. It is the Crucifixion which validates that covenant. This is the security of the believer – not our works – but His.
- C. Our only appropriate response to this truth is praise.

Conclusion:

Oh Lord God – we confess before You that we are sinners. We have failed to do what You said we are to do – and we have done what You said we are not to do. We confess our sin and humbly cast ourselves upon Your mercy and grace.

Lord Jesus, we worship You because You are worthy. You are the Son of God, the Messiah – eternal, holy, faithful, all-powerful, all-wise, and the fullness of love. We worship and adore You for coming into the world and dying in our place. We confess together that You are our Lord and Savior and we want to say "Thank You" for enduring our pain, paying our debt, and suffering our hell on the cross.

Heavenly Father, how great is Your plan of salvation. In Your mercy You have made it possible for sinners like ourselves – to be cleansed, forgiven, and to have the assurance of Heaven. We praise You for Who You are, and for all the grace of the New Covenant. You have given us every good – and we praise You.

We give ourselves to You without reservation. We ask You to work in us that we as a Church, and as individuals, may bring to You the honor and the glory You are worthy to receive. We thank You in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen.