

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 10/30/2011

Title: "The Priority of the Lord's Supper"

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

1. The Background to the Lord's Supper: Passover (23)

- Passover was a memorial commemorating Israel's deliverance from Egypt through God's judgment passing over those homes who in faith put the blood of a lamb around the doorpost of their home.
- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on Passover; The first believers celebrated it regularly, Acts 2:41-43.

2. The Covenant of the Lord's Supper: New Covenant (25)

- Jeremiah 31:31-34; Notice, "I will..." and "They shall..."

3. The Symbolism of the Lord's Supper: Death (26)

- We do not believe that the bread and wine become his body and blood.
- Spurgeon: "How do you use spectacles? To look at? No to look through them. So, use the bread and wine as a pair of spectacles. Look through them, and do not be satisfied until you can say, "Yes, yes, I can see the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world."
- This is a visible, graphic, even violent emblem of our eternal hope: Broken body / spilled blood; Reminder that we could not be saved by something prettier - nothing less than death would do.

4. The Purpose of the Lord's Supper: Remembrance (25) / Proclamation (26)

- We may not forget that Christ died, but we regularly forget the extent of our problem; the horror of the cross; the victory of the redemption weekend (Fri - Sun); the results, the implications of the cross.

5. The Commandment of the Lord's Supper: "Do this!" (25)

- A church should treat the Lord's Supper as a priority because we need it; we are forgetful; done rightly, it unifies us; Jesus commands it; the NT modeled its central place in the life of the early church; God promises to bless what he prescribes; He prescribes and blesses such simple things.

6. The Frequency of the Lord's Supper: "As often" (25)

- In Acts 20 it appears that they took the Lord's Supper on "first day of the week" (Sun). But description isn't prescription. So, Paul is not explicit about how often - "as often as you do it..."
- More important than frequently is whether we make every effort to come when we do celebrate it.

7. The Preparation for the Lord's Supper: Examination (27-31)

8. The Spirit of the Lord's Supper: Weighty and Free

- It remembers a death! Some have died neglecting this meal. But Jesus' death removes guilt. It's both.

9. The Unity of the Lord's Supper: Oneness (19-21)

- A lack of unity is the reason Paul writes: "there are divisions" (18); "humiliating those who have nothing" (22); "despising the church of God" (22).
- It's to be done with others: "when you come together" (18, 33).

10. The Hope of the Lord's Supper: His Return (26)

Sample Questions

- Can someone explain the Old Testament background to the Lord's Supper? (Passover, Jeremiah 31); What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? (it's not Jesus' actual body, but a symbol and proclamation).
- When have you seen the Lord's Supper abused or neglected? How have you seen the Lord's Supper rightly observed? What is the Bible's teaching on how we should observe this (timing vs. manner).
- Is this a serious, thoughtful, and planned for part of your Christian life?