

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

JULY 14, 2019

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

On the most solemn night of His life, our Lord instituted what we call the Last Supper. While telling His loyal disciples "do this in remembrance of me," another disciple plans His betrayal. Roman soldiers are lacing up their boots and gathering their swords with enthusiasm as they prepare to follow Judas to Gethsemane. Jesus was arrested, falsely accused, and finally put to death by crucifixion. Satan claimed victory, the Jews were elated, but not for long. Three days later the stone was hurled away and He that liveth and was dead, emerged from the grave with a triumphant shout of victory over Satan, sin, death, hell and the grave. When celebrating "The Lord's Supper," we are instructed to remember the great sacrifice our Lord made to free us from the slavery not of Egyptian bondage, but of spiritual death.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-22 (NLT)

1. Paul had nothing good to say about how they celebrated. Why?
 - A. Division. **V18** – A major theme.
 - B. Differences. **V19** – God approved those promoting unity, not strife.
 - C. Distractions. **V20-21** - The rich refused to bless the poor.
 - D. Decisions. **V22** – Stay home if you're only coming to disgrace the church and shame the poor.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

1. The significance of the Lord's Supper.
 - A. The origin. **V23a** – It was instituted by Jesus.
 - B. The timing. **V23b** – It was instituted when they observed the Passover and celebrated how they escaped God's wrath. Now, the true Passover Lamb was about to be slain.
 - C. The focus. Now:
 - Better blood is about to be shed.
 - A greater redemption was about to be purchased.
 - A greater deliverance was about to be provided.
 - A new covenant was about to be established.
 - The Passover was being replaced with The Lord's Supper.
 - The animal sacrifices were being replaced with the cross.
 - The Priesthood was being replaced with the Priesthood of the saints.
 - We look back to the cross, not the Red Sea.
 - It's all about Jesus, not ourselves or anyone else.
2. The serious nature of the Lord's Supper. **1 CORINTHIANS 11:**
 - A. **V26** – A public statement is made with significant meaning: Jesus lived, died, is alive and will come again.
 - B. **V27-32** – Not celebrating in a worthy manner brings judgment.
 - Not examining ourselves, not appreciating His sacrifice, not confessing sin, viewing it as a religious ritual.
3. Celebrating worthily. **1 CORINTHIANS 11:33-34**
 - A. Consider one another.
 - B. Remember Jesus' sacrifice.
 - C. Celebrate the New Covenant.
 - D. Receive spiritual nourishment.
 - E. Affirm our faith.
 - F. Live like we know He's coming again soon.