

# A DIVINE ORDINANCE

JULY 9, 2023

## JOHN 6:51-56 NLT

Many of Jesus' followers left Him after He made these statements. Why? They failed to understand He was speaking metaphorically, not literally. Jesus just fed them with physical food and now they're seeking another meal from Him. Jesus tries to turn their focus from physical sustenance to spiritual sustenance. He compares Himself to the manna that came down from Heaven in the time of Moses. Like manna, Jesus came down from Heaven. Unlike manna, the bread of life (Jesus) lasts eternally, not just until the next hunger pang.

- The Lord's Supper is one of the most significant ordinances of the Church because it represents the body and blood of our Lord. It also signifies our union with Him.

### A Divine Ordinance (1 COR. 11:24-26)

\* Jesus instituted this practice as an ongoing observance to commemorate His death and coming return. In some churches, it's just a routine part of every service. In some, you just take the elements as you exit the building.

\* God intended it to be an intimate time of fellowship with our Lord and to appropriate the benefits of Christ's redemptive work.

\* **Vs. 26** His death points to the past, His return points to the future and our participating points to the present.

### An Ordinance of Examination (1 COR. 11:28-29)

\* The examination is threefold involving the literal, personal and collective body of Christ.

\* Individually, we examine our personal walk with God. Corporately, we examine our walk with the Church (**1 COR. 11: 30**). Literally, we examine our understanding of Christ's physical sufferings.

### Ordinance of Healing (1 PET. 2:24)

The bread which symbolizes His body was broken for our healing (**IS. 53:4-5, MT. 8:16-17**).

\* **PS. 105:37** After eating the flesh of the Passover Lamb, they were all healed. Jesús, our Passover lamb was sacrificed for us. By eating His Word (flesh), we, too, are healed.

### Ordinance of Forgiveness (MT. 26:26-28).

\* The Old Covenant covered sin, but the New Covenant provides remission of sin because of the Blood of Jesus (**HEB. 10:14-18**).

\* The Blood of Jesus did what no animal blood could do—provide total cleansing and removal of sin. Also, there is no more remembrance of it.

### Qualifications

\* One must be Born Again and walking in fellowship with God. This means not living in known sin, such as harboring bitterness or unforgiveness.

\* The couple living in sin in **1 COR. 5:1** would be disqualified and should refrain from participating until they repent and stop the immorality (**NUM. 5:11-31 NLT**).

\* **1 JOHN 1:7-9 NLT** The Blood cleanses all sin.