

REVERENT PARTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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INTRO:

The Lord's Supper is one of the two ordinances of the church. Water Baptism speaks of identification and obedience. Communion speaks of intimacy and fellowship and carries with it a warning (**1COR. 11:27-32 MSG**). Irreverent participation brings judgment. Reverent participation brings blessings.

Upward Look (**JOHN 6:31-35, 51**)

- Jews viewed manna as a Heaven-sent sign that God was among them.
- Jesus claims He's the Heaven-sent bread and He is God among them.
- He claims that eating His flesh and drinking His blood gives life.
- The Lord's Supper originates from above with God, not man.
- **HEB. 10:5** Only His blood can redeem us.

The Backward Look (**1 COR. 11:26**)

- 1.) **IS. 53:1-6** His death takes us back to Calvary. The Cross is viewed three ways: It's offensive to Jews; it's foolishness to Greeks; it's the power and wisdom of God to believers.
- 2.) His death reminds us of the great sacrifice Jesus made for sin. The bread speaks of His body in which He lived a perfect human life, and how God sees us perfect because of His obedience. The cup speaks of His blood that paid the penalty for sin.
- 3.) **2 TIM. 1:7-10** Because of Jesus, death has been abolished and no longer has the final say. Forgiveness is available to all.

The Inward Look (**1 COR. 11:28**)

- 1.) We are to do some serious heart-searching in order to celebrate in a reverent manner. Reverence means to regard or treat with deep respect.
- 2.) Questions to ask ourselves: Am I Born Again? **1 PET. 1:23** Is my heart right? **PS. 139:23-24 MSG, NLT.** Am I rightly discerning the Lord's body? **1 PET. 2:24** Literal, individual and collective.

Outward Look (**1 COR. 12:27 AMPC**)

- 1.) Collectively, we are the body of Christ. We need each other just as the human body needs every body part to function properly.
- 2.) **1 COR. 12:14-21** Am I taking my place and doing my part? Am I walking in love and assembling with other believers?

Forward Look (**ACTS 1:9-11**)

- 1.) These disciples witnessed many miraculous things done by Jesus. Even now, they stand in awe at His miraculous Ascension. Angels tell them to stop gawking and get working.
- 2.) He will come again: In the rapture, and at His second coming when He sets up His earthly kingdom.

Conclusion (**1 COR. 11:23-32 (MSG)**)

The Lord's Supper is a perpetual reminder of the severity of sin and the price paid to deliver us from its consequences. We are to approach it with reverence, gratitude, adoration and with a desire to live a life that reflects our love for Him and appreciation for His great sacrifice.