

## **1 Corinthians 11 and Communion**

### **03-27-22**

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus on the night He was betrayed. It is the unique "sacrament" given to the church that is in a sense possessed by the church; it is only the church that can present it. But Paul's conversation about the importance of communion goes beyond that. Throughout the entire letter to the Corinthians Paul has been referencing the feasts of the law of Moses in reference to the Covenant of Christ.

Passover – 1 Corinthians 5:7

Unleavened Bread – 1 Corinthians 5:8

First-Fruits – 1 Corinthians 15:20

Pentecost – (1 Corinthians 15:23)

Trumpets – 1 Corinthians 15:52

Tabernacles – 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

Atonement – (1 Corinthians 6:11)

What is the Lord's Supper? It is a memorial that Jesus declared was "In remembrance of me". Paul called it a proclamation of the Lord's death. How does it do this? By the emblems given, the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, called the cup. These things represent the Flesh and Blood of Jesus. Consider that Scriptures speak of death in the flesh and life in the blood; we partake first in His death, and then in the life He gives us through the New Covenant.

What is not mentioned but is also true is that this is also a proclamation of the Lord's resurrection. This is found in the day of observance, the first day of the week. We see in Acts 20:7 that it was the first day of the week that Christians met to partake of the Lord's Supper. The significance of this day is that in Jesus' resurrection He was given all authority; He became King. Thus it is referred to as the "Lord's Day" in Revelation 1. We proclaim His resurrection by meeting every Sunday.

But Paul's admonition pertains to a third element of communion – those with whom we partake of it. Paul declared that we are doing this as a proclamation of the Lord's return. This is accomplished by those with whom we partake; we are doing this with those who eagerly await His return. This last point was Paul's chief concern. By not waiting for one another nor by discerning the church of Christ, they were missing that last important part of communion. Communion is an act of the church as a body, and individual Christians (while examining themselves) are required to be mindful of each other. Communion is a declaration of our fellowship and common hope of heaven.

Communion is an act of Love. It is a thankfulness for our Savior and His sacrifice. It is also a demonstration of our love for one another.