

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

I. About the Sacraments

- God freely gives us “the goods” from Jesus’ cross in, with, and through the “_____ of _____”: God’s _____ & The _____.
- The root word of SACRAMENT is
 - _____ – to consecrate, make _____, or set something _____ from the common, ordinary, and/or secular world.
- What Makes a Sacrament?
 - 1) A physical, tangible _____ element
 - 2) God specifically connects _____ to it.
 - 3) It gives _____ of _____ won by Jesus on the cross.
 - 4) Jesus _____ it; He told His Church to do it.
- How Many Sacraments Are in the Bible Then?

II. Kneeling at Jesus’ Table: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

- Matthew 26:26-28
- Mark 14:22-24
- Luke 22:19-20
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
 - Jesus says: The bread _____ His Body
The wine _____ His Blood
He promises _____ of _____ through receiving it.
 - “Is” means _____. (Faith accepts/believes this mysterious union.)

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- What Gives Holy Communion This Kind of Power?

- Which Direction is the Lord's Supper?
 - An Ordinance We Obey: From _____ to _____?
 - God Giving Us Grace: From _____ to _____?

- Differences Between Denominations

The Lord's Supper	Before the Words of Institution		After the Words of Institution		Concept/Teaching
	Bread	Wine	Bread	Wine	
Roman Catholic	Bread	Wine	Bread	Wine	Transubstantiation
			Body	Blood	
Reformed	Bread	Grape J.	Bread	Grape J.	Symbolism/Representation
			Body	Blood	
Lutheran	Bread	Wine	Bread	Wine	Real Presence
			Body	Blood	

Transubstantiation believes that the bread and wine lose their substance and change into body and blood only; RC also teaches that the Mass is a re-sacrifice for the sins of the living and the dead, and they pray for God to accept it.

Symbolism: "The finite cannot bear the Infinite." Therefore, the Lord's Supper is merely symbolic or representative of Jesus' body and blood. The Lord's Supper is a "Memorial Meal" to remember Christ's benefits for us on the cross. Faith ascends and participates with Christ's body and blood in heaven in a spiritual sense, but Jesus' physical body and blood are not received orally with the bread and wine.

Real Presence: In Christ's Supper His very body and blood are truly present, truly distributed, and truly received in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. How can this be? Jesus is God; neither He nor His Word can lie.

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- What Great Treasure Do I Receive at The Lord's Table?

- How Often Should I Receive Communion?
 - Acts 2:42
 - Acts 20:7
 - Luther's Thoughts

- Common Names for The Lord's Supper
 - Holy **Communion**: "_____ into _____"
 - with _____
 - with _____
 - with _____
 - Eucharist: "to _____"
 - Sacrament of the Altar: Christ's _____ on the cross (Jn. 1:29)

- The Lord's Supper is filled with _____!!! (Matt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25)

III. Worthy & Unworthy Reception of The Lord's Supper

- 1 Corinthians 11:27-31: Key words
 - "eat & drinking in an unworthy manner"
 - "guilty of sinning against the body & blood of the Lord"
 - "many among you are ..."
 - "examine him/herself before eating & drinking"
 - "eat & drink without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats & drinks judgment on him/herself"

- Proper Self-Examination Before Communing:
 - 1) Am I aware of my sin & _____ them? (Ps 38:18)
 - 2) Do I _____ Jesus as my Savior and His words regarding this Sacrament? (Lk 22:19-20)
 - 3) Do I intend with _____ power to resist the devil, say no to sin and it's desires in my life, and to walk obediently with Jesus in newness of life? (Eph 4:22-24; Rom 6:11-14)

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- Remember: such examination is not a way of making myself _____ to receive communion, or a “performance” I do to “_____” for it. Rather, I receive it worthily when I _____ Jesus and in His words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”
- What if I feel weak or I’m struggling in my faith, should I still come to His Table?
- Out of Obedience to God’s Word and Christian Love, Whom Should We Not Commune?
 - 1) Non-_____ ; non-_____.
 - 2) Christians who cannot _____ themselves: young children; any who haven’t received proper instruction; as well as certain medical conditions.
 - 3) Those who are _____ (Matt 6:15)
 - 4) Openly ungodly and are living _____ to God’s Word (unrepentant). (1 Cor 5:11, 13)
 - 5) Those who don’t share our _____ of _____.
- Would you take the Lord’s Supper at a congregation that holds a _____ about communion?

IV. Communion Specifics

- Common Vessels: _____
- Communion Demeanor:
 - Approaching His Table: _____
 - Receiving the Bread/Body: _____
 - Receiving the Wine/Blood: _____
 - Leaving His Table: _____
- Next Steps:
- Additional Resources: