

May 17, 2020

## Worship?

*"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is our reasonable act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*  
Romans 12:1-2

*"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he come. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread or drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."*  
I Corinthians 11:17-34

Just as believers are commanded to speak to one another in song, so also, are we commanded to take part in the Lord's Supper. This meal of remembrance was instituted by our Lord on the night of his betrayal as he was eating supper with the Twelve. The components of the 'meal' were taken from the table and were a part of a typical evening meal during the "Feast of the Unleaven Bread" which included the Passover.

Thus, we can know that the bread mentioned in the Gospel accounts was unleaven and the reference to the cup would have been to a cup of wine. It is amazing I think, that so much attention has been focused on the elements of this "**Lord's Supper**" and the what and how and when and where we ought to take it and so little attention is focused on the why.

Like so many things that our Lord commands us to do, the Lord's Supper has little purpose if we are not fulfilling our Lord's direction in our participation. Participating in the "**Lord's Supper**", as Paul calls it, is a proclamation of our belief in the death of our Savior and thus a time, I think, to remember the cost of our salvation.

In instituting this 'supper' Jesus does not actually command the use of unleaven bread and cup of wine. He simply took those things from the supper table. But, he does command, as Paul states in his directions to the believers in Corinth, that we remember him in our participation. If we are not "**...recognizing the body of the Lord...**" the Apostle would tell us, we are bringing judgment on ourselves.

In the context in I Corinthians 11, this idea of "**...recognizing the body of the Lord...**" can, I think, have two appropriate applications. First, obviously, we are remembering that Jesus' death on the cross was a very real and very horrible death, and the blood he shed on that cross was the price of our redemption.

Second, from the context, I believe we can also be reminded in this 'supper' that we are all part of the body of Jesus and our participation should always reflect that community. So, when we take part in the "**Lord's Supper**" we need, I believe, to focus our minds on the death of Jesus' body and the shedding of his blood as the very real price of our "**New Covenant**". Additionally, I am convinced that our participation in this 'supper' is a very real proclamation of our shared belief as

those who are part of his body, that we belong to one another and that our unity reflects the reality of his death and resurrection before an unbelieving world.

As to the what and when and how and where; while those things are not doubt important, they are not, I believe, the measure of our remembering the death of our Lord and Savior on the cross of Calvary.

