

HOW IS THE BODY OF JESUS RECEIVED IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

"Take, eat, this is My body"

A study of the fellowship of believers with the body of Christ from 1 Corinthians 10


MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

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4 MAJOR VIEWS ON THE SUPPER

- The Symbolic Memorialist View
- The Roman Catholic View - TRANS-substantiation.
- The Lutheran View - CON-substantiation.
- The Reformed View

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SYMBOLIC MEMORIALIST VIEW

- Jesus Christ is not uniquely present in anyway at the Lord's Table.
- In fact, His absence is emphasized.
- This is a time to think about our sins, ask forgiveness, and recollect thoughts about the crucifixion.

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WEAKNESSES OF THE MEMORIALIST VIEW

- The body and blood of Jesus is an offering from Jesus to us, not the other way around.
- "Rome turns the sacrament into a propitiatory sacrifice that man gives to God. Symbolic memorialists turn the sacraments into a testimony that man gives to God" (Mathison).

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WEAKNESSES OF THE MEMORIALIST VIEW

- The Lord's Supper is turned into a subjective activity of the individual believer; the one who gets the most out of it is the one who conjures up the best feelings and the most thorough self-examination.

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Symbolic memorialism also reduces the sacraments to an essentially subjective matter of mental recollection. There is nothing objectively present in the sacrament outside the mind of the believer. Christ is not present in any unique way, and the sacraments are not objective means of grace. Christ is present in the sacrament only to the degree that each individual subjectively brings him and his work to mind. Symbolic memorialists are at a loss to explain the difference between mental recollection that occurs in prayer or the hearing of the word. They are at a loss to explain why the Lord's Supper is really necessary or even significant. Such difficulty goes a long way toward explaining the neglect of this sacrament in the modern evangelical church.

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HOWEVER,

- John 6 clearly teaches that believers feed on Jesus' body and
- 1 Corinthians 10:16 clearly says that in the Lord's Supper we "participate" in the body of Christ
- Is the Roman and Lutheran view right?

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"Lutherans and Romanists further agree in teaching that there is a reception of the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper which is elsewhere impossible. . . But if it can be clearly demonstrated from Scripture and from the laws of belief which God has impressed upon our nature, that those doctrines are false, then the passage must be understood as teaching a spiritual, and not a corporal participation of Christ's body and blood. *All that the passage asserts is the fact of a participation, the nature of that participation must be determined from other sources*" - Charles Hodges.

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5 REASONS WHY CHRIST IS UNIQUELY PRESENT AT THE TABLE

- I. This is a spiritual event that is unique in that it is set apart by specific physical requirements.
- II. This is a spiritual message that is unique in that it is set apart by specific material elements.

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5 REASONS WHY CHRIST IS UNIQUELY PRESENT AT THE TABLE

- III. This is a spiritual gathering that is unique in that it is set apart by a specifically designated place.
- IV. There is spiritual fellowship that is unique in that we are brought into fellowship with the body of Jesus.

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5 REASONS WHY CHRIST IS UNIQUELY PRESENT AT THE TABLE

- V. This is a spiritual meaning that is unique in that the truth of Jesus Christ as our sustenance is delivered in a unique mode.

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ACTIONS OF COMMUNICATION

- The promise is made - "I will give you a hundred dollars" and written down on a note.
- The note is read.
- The note is understood and there is relief.
- The relief doesn't come from the note, but by virtue of understanding the note.

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“DISCERNING THE BODY”

- This is by faith alone.
- Lutherans and Romanists believe that the organ of reception of the body is the mouth.
- The Bible teaches that we receive Christ by faith.

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- Therefore, the Lord’s Supper is a place where those who have already received Christ by faith are able to receive Him again symbolically and be truly and uniquely nourished by the Spirit.
- Because it is like another salvation experience in which the believing person discerns the body of Christ, repentance is appropriate. Flee idolatry.

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