

The Lord's Table Meeting

Scripture Reading: Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:17-34; Matt. 26:26-30

- I. The Lord's table meeting is the bread breaking meeting (Acts 20:7), in which the believers come together to eat the Lord's supper(1 Cor. 11:20) and attend the Lord's table(1 Cor. 10:21).
 - A. On the first day of the week (the Lord's Day)-Acts 20:6b-7a, 1 Cor. 16:2.
 - B. The Lord's table meeting is the most important meeting of a local church; it is for remembering the Lord with the remembrance of the Lord as its center for the Lord's enjoyment.
 1. Everything done in the meeting-whether the singing and speaking of the hymns, prayer and praise, Bible reading, or words of inspiration-should take the Lord as the center.
 2. The attendants in the meeting should speak concerning the Lord's person and work, His love and virtues, His living and suffering on the earth, or His glory and honor in heaven, that others may consider or realize these things in order to remember the Lord Himself.
 - C. The Lord's table meeting of a local church must be proper and adequate.

- II. First Corinthians 11 deals with the Lord's supper (v.20); the Lord's table is dealt with in 1 Corinthians 10 (v.21).
 - A. When we eat the Lord's supper, the emphasis is on the remembrance of the Lord.
 - B. Attending(partaking of) the Lord's table is for the fellowship of Christ and for the members of His body to fellowship together in the Lord, the stress being on the fellowship among the saints.
 - C. Lord's supper is for the Lord's enjoyment and satisfaction; the Lord's table is for our participation, enjoyment, and fellowship.

- III. We remember the Lord:
 - A. By breaking the bread to apprehend with appreciation and thanks the Lord's physical body being broken for us-Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24.
 - B. By eating the bread:
 1. To enjoy the Lord as our life supply-John 6:35a.
 2. To testify that we live by the Lord-John 6:57b.
 3. To have fellowship in Christ's mystical Body-1 Cor. 10:16b-17.
 - C. By drinking the cup-1 Cor. 11:25:

1. To review the redemption of the new covenant-Matt. 26:27-28.
 2. To receive God's blessing.
 3. To have fellowship in the blood of Christ-1 Cor. 10:16a.
- IV. Two minor aspects of the Lord's table meeting.
- A. To display the Lord's death-1 Cor. 11:26.
 1. The Lord's supper is to display the death of the Lord, rather than to remember it.
 2. By the death of the Lord all negative things have come to an end, and their end is displayed openly; this is the negative aspect.
 3. The table shows we can receive the Lord, symbolized by the bread and wine, into ourselves; this is the positive aspect.
 - B. To express our desire of the Lord's coming back-1 Cor. 11:26b; Matt. 26:29.
- V. The worship of the Father-Matt. 26:30.
- A. The Lord's table meeting not only includes the remembrance of the Lord in the first part but also includes the worship of the Father in the latter part.
 - B. In Matthew 26:26-30, after the Lord Jesus broke the bread and sang a hymn with the disciples, He led them to the Mount of Olives to meet with the Father. A principle is implied and established, that is, after we have broken the bread to remember the Lord, we should be led by Him to worship the Father together.
 - C. By presenting Christ as the peace offering to the Father-Lev. 3.
- VI. Warning:
- A. Proving ourselves and discerning the Body-1 Cor. 11:28-29.
 - B. Not eating the bread and drinking the cup unworthily-1 Cor. 11:27.
 - C. For the worse, if meeting with divisions-1 Cor. 11:17.
 - D. The Lord's chastening-1 Cor. 11:30-34.

Focus: The real remembrance of the Lord is to receive and enjoy Him as our life supply by eating and drinking Him and by sharing Him one with another in the fellowship of His Body.

Further Readings:

Chapter 17, *the Collected Work of Watchman Nee(Set 3)*, vol. 48, Watchman Nee
 Chapters 2-10, *Basic Lessons of Service*, Witness Lee
The Lord's Table Meeting (Outlines), Witness Lee