

1st Corinthians 11:23-26
The correct way to observe the Lord's Supper

The importance of Biblical tradition concerning the Lord's Supper—11:23a-b

- 1) God's gracious revelation—²³ *For I (emphatic) received from the Lord*
 - a) Directly or indirectly
 - b) Note how closely Paul's explanation parallels the account in Luke 22:19-20.
- 2) Paul's faithful communication—*that which I also handed over to you^{pl},*
- 3) Jesus' sobermindedness—*that the Lord Jesus, in the night in which He was handed over,*

Paul reminds them of the content of the Biblical tradition from Christ—11:23c-25

- 1) Concerning the bread—11:23c-24 (3 primary verbs)
 - a) *took bread,*
 - b) ²⁴ *and ... He broke (off pieces of) it*
 - i) *when He had given thanks [eucharisteo],*
 - (1) Thus some refer to the Lord's Supper as the *Eucharist*. Some also refer to it as *Communion* based on *koinonia* in 10:16.
 - c) *and said,*
 - i) Responsibility—*"Take, eat; (omitted by ET)*
 - ii) Identification—*this is My (emphatic) body which is broken (omitted by ET) for [huper] you^{pl}.*
 - (1) They were already eating the symbolic meal of Passover. The symbols are now reinterpreted.
 - (2) This emphasizes the selfless, substitutionary, self-sacrificing death of Christ for all the Corinthian believers.
 - iii) Purpose—*Do this (eating of the bread) in remembrance of Me."*
 - (1) A command to obey. To not observe the Lord's Supper is to sin.
- 2) Concerning the cup—11:25
 - a) Similarity—²⁵ *Similarly also the cup after supper, saying,*
 - b) Identification—*"This cup is the new covenant in My blood.*
 - c) Responsibility—*Do this, as often as you^{pl} drink it, in remembrance of Me."*
 - i) A command to obey. To not observe the Lord's Supper is to sin.

Overall purpose of the Lord's Supper—11:26

- 1) Looking back—²⁶ *For ... you^{pl} (collectively) proclaim the Lord's death*
 - a) If they are accurately proclaiming Christ's death during the Lord's Supper, they will not overindulge themselves, despise or shame others, or allow others to go hungry (cf. 11:20-22)
- 2) Frequency—*as often as (i.e. every time, as many times as) you^{pl} eat this bread, and drink this cup,*
- 3) Looking forward—*until He comes.*
 - a) The Passover meal also looked forward to a future redemption by God