

1<sup>st</sup> 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—<sup>23</sup> *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<sup>pl</sup>,*
- 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) <sup>24</sup> *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<sup>pl</sup>.*
        - (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—<sup>25</sup> *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<sup>pl</sup> 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—<sup>26</sup> *For ... you<sup>pl</sup> (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<sup>pl</sup> 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