

## Chapter Twenty One: The Sacraments Part Two — The Lord's Supper

### The Lord's Supper

The relationship between **Baptism & The Lord's Supper**: Baptism is the sacrament of *initiation* given only once (baptism is comparable to justification — ch. 15), while the Lord's Supper is the sacrament of *continuing fellowship* with God to be received over and over again (the Lord's Supper is comparable to sanctification — ch. 16).

**Question:** are there positive and negative implications for associating baptism with the beginning of the Christian life and the Lord's Supper with the continuation of the Christian life?

**WCF 29.1:** "A sacrament of his body and blood ... for the perpetual **remembrance** of the sacrifice ... the **sealing** all benefits ... nourishment and growth ... encouragement in and to all duties; a **bond and pledge** of communion with him, and with each other.

**Past** — At the Table we remember Christ's death.

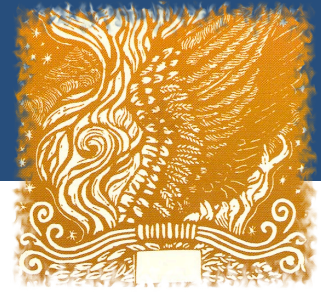
**Present** — At the Table we receive nourishment by feeding on Christ (1Co 10:16-18; cf. Jn 6:53-58) and closer fellowship with others (1Co 11:18-22)

**Future** — At the Table we anticipate this coming (see 1Co 11:26, "we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" — and see Rev 19)

### How is Christ present at the Table? (Is he?)

- *Transubstantiation* — The RCC believes the wine and bread *become* the physical body and blood of Christ, though they *appear* to be bread and wine. ... But when you point to a map and say "This is France," what do you mean? ... A bigger problem: how often does Jesus need to be offered as a sacrifice for our sins?
- *Lutheran view* (often called *Consubstantiation*) — Jesus' body is "in, with, under" the bread and wine (most Protestants say Jesus' physical body can only be one place at a time [Jn 16:7])
- *Memorial view* (associated with Zwingli, the Swiss Reformer) — the Table is *only* a sign, a memorial — we remember, and the Table *teaches*, or *points* to spiritual truth
- *Reformed view* — Calvin believed that Christ "became life-giving Spirit" (1Co 15:45; see also 2Co 3:18) so that Christ can be present at the Table because the Holy Spirit is there (see also Jn 15:26; 16:7, 14-15) — thus the Table is a "participation" in his body and blood (1Co 10:16-18), a place where the believer "feeds on" Christ (Jn 6:53-58)

**Questions:**  
Where are the legitimate concerns?  
Where are the liabilities?  
Is one view more biblically accurate?  
How do you deal with your own experience?



## Table Fellowship with God

**Dinners of Reconciliation** — Gen 31:52-54 (Laban & Jacob); 2Sm 9:7-13; 19:28 (Mephibosheth & David); 1Kg 2:7 (Solomon & the sons of Barzillai)

### Fellowship with God

- God's provision of food in the Garden — and our abuse of the provision — Gen 1:29
- God's expanded provision of food after the Flood (Gen 9:3)
- The Passover meal: a memorial of salvation and the covenant with God (Ex 12) — not to mention, provision for the journey to the Red Sea!
- Covenant meal with the 70 elders on Mt. Horeb (Ex 24:9-11)
- Manna for the journey (Ex 16:1-35; cf. Ps 78:19-20)
- Bread & wine as fellowship offerings in the Tabernacle & Temple — “the bread of the presence” (Ex 25:30; 37:16; Lv 24:5-9; Nm 4:7)
- The Peace Offering, celebrating the reconciliation between God & his people that was won each Day of Atonement (Lv 7:11-18; 19:5-8; Dt 27:7)
- This is all background for Jesus saying that the Lord's Supper is the new covenant in his blood (Lk 22:20; 1Co 11:25) — a celebration of Jesus as our Passover (1Co 5:7)
- Anticipation of a Banquet: Ps 23:5 (a table in the midst of our enemies); Pr 9:2 (wisdom invites the young man into her home for a meal); Mt 14:13-12, etc. (Jesus feeds the multitudes); Lk 24:30; Jn 21:9-14; Ac 10:41 (Jesus' post-resurrection meals with his disciples); Wedding supper of the Lamb (Lk 13:29; 14:15-24; 22:30; Rev 19:9) — “So, as we eat and drink now, we look forward to his coming, when we will eat and drink with consummate joy (1 Cor. 11:26).”

## The Experience of the Lord's Supper

(some Kiddian amplifications)

