Lord’s Supper

What is the Purpose of the Lord’s Supper?

The Lord’s Supper (sometimes called Communion) was instituted by Jesus at His last Passover dinner before He was crucified. The Passover was a remembrance of the Death Angel passing over the firstborn of Israel during the plagues when Israel was released from Egypt.

The blood of a killed lamb was applied to the sides and top of doorposts and when the Death Angel from God saw the blood – he “passed over” that house.

Well, that is a wonderful picture of Jesus’ Salvation already, isn’t it?

Then, in John 6 we see Jesus during His ministry teaching that He was the spiritual Bread come down from heaven that must be eaten. He meant spiritually “eaten” by receiving Him by Faith. Trusting on Him. He said the same about His blood that would be shed – you had to “eat his flesh and drink His blood” to have eternal life. In verse 63 of John 6 He tells them that He is speaking “spiritually, not fleshly”.

So….on that first Lord’s Supper – the Bread and Wine were symbols of Jesus. Eating and drinking them were symbols of Trusting on Jesus Personally. It is a celebration that you have Trusted on Christ and are PART OF HIM, and He is a part of you. – there is no “extra grace” or work of merit in taking the Lord’s Supper, it is a remembrance that you have ALREADY received Jesus Christ as Savior.

* At that first Lord’s Supper – Jesus said “Take eat, this is my body which was broken for you” – He was obviously speaking symbolically because He was standing right there in His body before them.
* He said to drink the wine which was the blood of the New Testament (that means – the New Covenant of Salvation His death would make with people. **The Old Covenant was the Law of Moses that only proved our sin – the New Covenant was salvation by Grace alone.**
* **Jesus said “as often as you do this, it will be in remembrance of me.” Jesus wanted us to practice the Lord’s Supper to remember His sacrifice.**
* Just like the Passover bread, we use unleavened bread because leaven is used as an example of spreading sin in scripture. We are to remember that Jesus makes us white as snow through His salvation. We are to come to the Lord’s Supper transparent with our sin confessed and in fellowship with God.

Who should Take the Lord’s Supper?

Those who have already repented of their sin and Trusted Jesus as their Savior. In 1 Corinthians 11, it was the “church” who was coming together to practice the Lord’s Supper. That does not mean just church members, but those who were in the Body of Christ – the Greater Church of Christ.

I Corinthians 11:28 also makes clear that a Believer should examine himself for unconfessed sin and ungodliness before he takes the Lord’s Supper so he will not bring chastening on Himself and disrespect to Jesus.

Who should NOT take the Lord’s Supper?

The Lord’s Supper is not just a religious practice – it is not for those who have not turned from sin and trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is for the family of God only.

Also, a Christian who is living in willful sin should not take the Lord’s Supper because of God’s Chastening and disrespect to what Jesus has done for us.

Conclusion

The Lord’s Supper is a great Remembrance of Christ’s broken body and shed blood that brought us reconciliation with God for eternity. We joyfully take it together praising and exalting the slain Lamb of God for us.