

## The Lord's Supper

The Lord Jesus gathered His apostles together before His death for a meal that we call the Last Supper or the Lord's Supper. It was the time of the Passover, the feast commemorating the deliverance of the nation Israel from slavery in Egypt. The events of that evening are recorded in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, and Luke 22:7-23. Jesus commanded His apostles to "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me (1Cor. 11:24-25)."

The early church was faithful to Christ's words as recorded in the Book of Acts (2:42, 46, 20:7, 11). The church in Corinth had some difficulties in their understanding and in preparation for the Lord's Supper which the apostle Paul addressed (1Cor. 10:16-21, 11:17-34).

### A Biblical understanding of the Lord's Supper

1. Act of obedience to Christ's command (Luke 22:19; 1Cor. 11:24-25).
2. Institution of the New Covenant (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 8:6-13). The Old Testament "types" (Passover, sacrifices, etc.) are fulfilled in Christ.
3. Act of identification and participation (1Cor. 10:16-22).
4. Recognition of God's good grace (Matt. 26:27). Jesus gave thanks for the bread and cup that represented His body and blood. We are to give thanks (Greek *eucharisteo*) for all of God's love and grace to redeem us.
5. Elements represent Christ's broken body and blood (Matt. 26:29; 1Cor. 11:24-28; Acts 15:29) They remain as elements (John 6:32-58).
6. Memorial to remember Christ and His work (1Cor. 11:23-25).
7. Time of examination (1Cor. 11:28) We are all unworthy, but we are not to approach the Lord's table in an unworthy manner (1Cor. 11:29).
8. Proclamation of Christ's death and His return (1Cor. 11:26). We look back at Christ's sacrificial death and forward to His second coming.

