

**“The Great Invitation”**  
**- Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Cor 10:14-22, 1 Corinthians’s 11:17-34**

Introduction & Background: [Matthew 26:26-29]

1. Four Views of The Lord’s Supper
  - i. Transubstantiation (Roman Catholic) – the belief that the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Jesus.
  - ii. Consubstantiation (Lutheran) – The belief that Christ’s body and blood essentially coexist with the bread and wine
  - iii. Spiritual Presence – the belief that the Lord’s Supper is a spiritual event in which Christ ordains for His Church. Elements are not spiritual by symbolic.
  - iv. Memorialism – the belief that the Lord’s Supper is in remembrance of Christ and what he has done. No spiritual component to it.

- So for us as a church based on Scripture, we fall under the category of Spiritual presence biblically speaking.

- Wayne Grudem phrases spiritual presence this way: “In distinction from Martin Luther, John Calvin and other Reformers argued that the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper did not change into the body and blood of Christ, nor did they somehow contain the body and blood of Christ. Rather, the bread and wine symbolized the body and blood of Christ, and they gave a visible sign of the fact that Christ himself was truly present.

- We believe this because of passages such as 1 Corinthians 10

- We believe then that not only is the Lord’s supper a symbolic representation, but also a special manifestation of Christ with us.

- So today we will look at 3 points of what we believe as a church regarding the Lord’s Supper.

**I. The Lord’s Supper is a Spiritual event of communion [1 Cor 10:14-22]**

[1 Cor 10 Reading + Explanation]

- It is not an atoning work – that has already been done by Christ.
- It is an ordinance in which God has given us to partake in fellowship with Him.
- The Lord’s Supper invites us to partake in Christ’s death and resurrection continually.

A. Where Baptism is the one-time identification for the believer, the Lord's Supper is the continual reminder of who you are in Christ.

B. If the Lord's Supper was just a memorial, Paul's warnings in 1 Corinthians 10 + 11 would not make any sense.

C. The Lord's supper according to Jesus is simply practice for the things to come and yet is a spiritual matter. [John 6 reminds us]

D. The Lord's Supper is a rehearsal dinner – for what Has happened and what is to come but provides spiritual nourishment and God's presence amongst His church.

## II. **The Lord's Supper gives Proclamation (1 Cor 11:17-26)**

A. Of Whom? Christ > Ourselves.

- This sounds easy for us in the way we take the Lord's Supper.

- The Early Church had a problem with emphasizing themselves.

- [1 Cor 11:17-21] - They made it more about themselves than they did about who Christ IS.

- Early Church – Lord's super was a meal. They also knew it as a spiritual event. Yet it turned into something it wasn't meant to be: exalting themselves.

- The early church faced this issue in a different but similar way to today. We still struggle with exalting ourselves above Christ and others.

B. The remedy for that: The reminder of what the Gospel is and has done for each of us. Paul addresses this in [1 Cor 11:22-26]

C. So then the Lord's Supper Proclaims two things:

1. Christ Death and Resurrection

- The call and reminder of Christ's death and resurrection....bread and body, blood and fruit of the vine.

- It is a direct participation in Christ's death and resurrection [Matthew 16:24 – whoever would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.]

- What that means for us (a transformative work)

## 2. His Return. [1 Cor 11:26]

- in a world of injustice and pain, He is present. We can celebrate around His table even in the midst of chaos.

- [Matthew 26:29] – Jesus won't eat again of this until that day when we are all together. Wedding Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19.

- An amazing reminder that what is to come will be the greatest thing we will ever experience.

- Therefore we also believe as a church the Lord's Supper is for the believer in Christ.

### III. The Lord's Supper causes Examination. (1 Cor 11:27-34)

#### A. Taking it in an unworthy manner.

##### 1. You can take the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner [1 Cor 11:27-34]

- It emphasized the individual over the person of Christ
- In a call for unity, there was division.
- It allowed people to think more highly of themselves than other believers.
- It exalts ourselves over what Christ has done and given us to do as believers.

##### 2. Do we have a problem with this today?

- Do we look at other Christians as lesser than us? What about other people in general?
- If you believe Christ died for all, then we have to see all people as someone who is in need of the Gospel and that God desires them to become a believer.
- If you think we would not have a problem with this ask yourself: Could you sit down for a meal with every person here in peace and unity?
- Sin continually tempts us to views others in a sinful light. But seeing Christ continuously is the remedy.

#### B. How do we solve that? How do we take it in a worthy manner.

- We must recognize that we are a family of believers, that love comes from God, and reconciliation is a daily part of our lives towards one another that has been given to us

by God.

C. We have several scriptures that remind us of the remedy and life we ought to live.

- [Matthew 22:37-39] – Love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself

- [Colossians 3:13] – Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

- [Ephesians 4:29-32] - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- [Matthew 6:14] - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- [1 John 4:20] If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

- We must recognize that the Gospel is always at work in our lives as believers.

- When we partake of the Lords Supper, it’s the closest picture we can get to Jesus being present with us reminding us of His love for us.

**IV.** Conclusion + Invitation