

Be the Church Week 3 - The Lord's Supper

BF&M 2000 - The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Intro Question - *What has been your experience with the Lord's Supper at this church or at other places you may have taken it or seen it taken?*

Question 1 - *How does the Old Testament background of the Passover help you understand what Jesus has done for us?*

As the fulfillment of the Passover Jesus became the perfect sacrifice whose blood allowed the wrath of God to pass over us. Even though we were enslaved to our sins and we deserved death under the wrath of God, Jesus covered our sins with His blood so that we could live.

Question 2 - *Why do you think Jesus gave His church two ordinances (Baptism & the Lord's Supper) whose purpose is to remember Him?*

Even after being saved by the grace of God we are forgetful and tend to fall back into old ways of thinking. We may be tempted to go back to relying on our own works to earn favor with God. The ordinances are a consistent reminder that it was only the work of Jesus that saved us. We may be tempted to make sinful decisions, but the ordinances remind us that we are new creations in Christ and that His body was broken and blood was shed because of our sins.

Question 3 - *What do you think about the idea of only allowing some people to take communion while restricting others from taking it?*

This may seem like an unkind thing to do if we don't understand why it is necessary. The Bible warns about the judgment that comes from taking communion in an unworthy manner. So intentionally restricting some people from taking it is helping them to be spared from that judgment. It can also be helpful for people to see that they are not part of the people of God to encourage them to repent and follow Jesus.

Question 4 - *With this understanding of Communion, in what settings do you think Communion should be taken?*

Some para-church ministries have given communion outside a local congregation and some churches give communion in settings other than the gathering of the church. It is important to recognize communion as an ordinance that was given to the local church to practice together. If there is not a community of believers committed to gathering with one another and holding one another accountable, then communion should not be done in that setting. While different churches exercise different judgment on what type of gathering communion should be held in, Buck Run only does communion at full church gatherings because we see that as the practice of the New Testament church.