

Academy: The ordinances pt 5 notes

1. Restatement of Spiritual presence view

- “The Lord’s Supper is a means of grace through which Christ is present by his divine nature and through which the Holy Spirit nourishes the souls of believers with the benefits wrought for us in Christ’s human nature which is now glorified and in heaven at the right hand of the Father.” ~ Richard Barcellos

From this definition, we see that this view is

- a means of grace
- Christ is present by his divine nature
- The Holy Spirit nourishes our souls
- By the benefits accomplished by Christ’s human nature
- Christ is physically in heaven at the right hand of the Father

2. Common Ground

a. Remembrance

- i. “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19 ESV

b. True Presence of Christ

- 1 Corinthians 10 - The Manner
- Ephesians 1:3 - The Means
- 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 - The Mode

3. Participation in Christ

a. 1 Corinthians 10

- Chapter 8 - Meat offered to idols bought in the market
 - Free to eat, unless it causes one to stumble
- Chapter 10 - Participation in pagan ceremonies
 - i. “For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
 - ii. Now these things took place as examples for us,
 1. that we might not desire evil as they did.
 2. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”
 3. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.
 4. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,
 5. nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

- iii. Now these things happened to them as an example,
 1. but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
 2. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
 3. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

With this warning not to be idolatrous in their participation with pagan practices, Paul now connects this to the proper rituals which are fitting for worshiping God.

- iv. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation** in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?" 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
 - eating the meals at these rituals makes one a participant in what is being worshiped.
 - The priests of the temple that offer sacrifices are said to be participants in the altar.
 - Eating at these rituals in some way brings one into fellowship with God or with demons.
- b. What is participation?
 - i. Participation = Koinonia (fellowship)
 - ii. Vertical fellowship
 1. "The Lord's Supper certainly has horizontal and social aspects to it, but in 1 Corinthians 10:16 in light of Paul's argument against idolatry, he is dealing with its nature in terms of its vertical aspect - that which we commune with, not the fact that we are communing." ~ Richard Barcellos
 - iii. Current
 - Christ is truly present with us as we partake.
 - iv. Blessing
 - This cup is not just blessed by the minister, but also gives blessings to the recipients.

4. God blesses us by Holy Spirit

a. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:3

i. Blessings

ii. In Christ

- For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV

iii. Spiritual blessings

- "In both of these cases 'spiritual' refers to that which is produced or brought to our souls by the Holy Spirit." ~ Richard Barcellos.

● For example:

- We have been chosen by God before we were made
- We are made to be holy and blameless
- We are adopted into the family of God
- We have been redeemed by Christ's blood
- We have been forgiven of our sins by his broken body
- We were sealed with the Holy Spirit

- "Since believers already have communion with Christ via faith, the Lord's Supper must be viewed as a means to nurture what is already possessed." ~ Richard Barcellos

iv. Heavenly places

- These blessings come to us by Christ from heaven.
- "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19 ESV
- "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." John 16:13-15 ESV

b. Current blessing

- i. "It is not by the church's administration, or merely by the activity of our memories, but through the Spirit that we enjoy communion with Christ, crucified, risen, and now exalted. For Christ is not localized in the bread and wine, nor is he absent from the Supper as though our highest activity were remembering him. Rather, he is known through the elements, by the Spirit. There is a genuine communion with Christ in the Supper. Just as preaching of the Word he is present not in the bible, or by believing, but by the ministry of the Spirit..." ~ Sinclair Ferguson

5. Taking in a worthy manner

a. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

- i. “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” 1 Corinthians 11:27-32
 - b. Worthy manner
 - Corinthians were treating Holy things as common.
 - Unworthy manner is not discerning the body (realities tied to the signs).
 - c. Guarding the table
 - “Many will sit in a Lord’s Day service and think thoughts such as: “Well, everybody’s doing it, I’ll just go do it.” or “Well, I’ve got to look good in front of other people, so I’ll take the bread and wine even though right now I’m living in all kinds of ways that deny the gospel that I proclaim.” Participating for these reasons is not only foolish, it’s sinful” ~ Ryan Davidson
6. Examining oneself
 - The examination is a remembrance of who you are in Christ.
 - “We come to the table more focused on Christ’s accomplished sacrifice than on our unaccomplished sanctification.” ~ Ryan Davidson