

New City Catechism Class Week Forty-Six

Q46: What is the Lord's Supper?

A46: Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (ESV)

Introductory questions:

- What is the Lord's Supper?
- For whom is the Lord's Supper?
- Why partake of the Lord's Supper?
- Where and when should the Lord's Supper take place?

Primary texts concerning the Lord's Supper:

- Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20 & 1 Cor. 11:23-29

Six Themes concerning the Lord's Supper¹:

- A connection to Passover
- The figural/symbolic character of the Lord's Supper
- Connected to a covenant
- A focus on the forgiveness of sins and atonement
- The eschatological emphasis of the meal
- The communal nature of the meal

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Why did Jesus command the disciples (and us) to partake of this meal?
- How is the Lord's Supper "a celebration of the presence of God in our midst"?
- How does the Lord's Supper bring us "into communion with God and with one another"?
- How does the Lord's Supper feed and nourish our souls?

¹ These Six Themes are taken from the chapter entitled "The Lord's Supper in the Bible" by Thomas Schreiner in the book *Baptist Foundations: Church Government for an Anti-Institutional Age*, Edited by Mark Dever and Jonathan Leeman.