

New City Catechism Class

Week Forty-Seven

Q47: Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

A47: No, Christ died once for all. The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast. But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What is a work of atonement?
- What is Christ's work of atonement?
- Why does the question ask about the Lord's Supper in relation to the atoning work of Christ?
- Why would anyone see or want to see the Lord's Supper as adding to Christ's work of atonement?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What does this passage have to do with the Lord's Supper?
- Why does both the Scripture (1 Peter 3:18) and the answer emphasize that Christ died "once"? – "once for sins," and "once for all."

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is a "covenant meal"?
- How does the Supper "strengthen our faith"?
- What do we know about the "future feast"?
- Why would someone want to partake of the Lord's Supper with an unrepentant heart, and what kind of judgment will he or she face?

Practical questions concerning the Lord's Supper:

- Does the Bible teach us how frequently we are to partake of the Lord's Supper? If so, how frequently should we partake?
- Who can administrate the Lord's Supper, and what is the proper context for this meal?
- What are the proper elements for the meal and can there be substitutes?
- Who can participate in the meal, and who should not?

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:26)