

An Exposition of the 2nd (1689) London Baptist Confession
Chapter 30.1-4 Of the Lord's Supper

Opening

Key Question: What does Communion signify for believers, and how does it shape our fellowship with Christ and one another?

Paragraph 1

The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night wherein he was betrayed, to be observed in his churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and showing to all the world the sacrifice of himself in his death,¹ confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in him, their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other.²¹ [1 Cor. 11:23–26](#) ² [1 Cor. 10:16–17,21](#)

A. Christ's Institution

- a. On the night of Christ's betrayal
- b. In his churches
- c. To the end of the world.

B. The Purpose

- Perpetual Commemoration: "To show forth the death of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:26).
- Portrayal of the sacrifice of Christ in his death.
- **Renewal:** Strengthens believers' faith and unity in the gospel in a confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits of this death; Spiritual nourishment; growth in him
- Believers engage in all duties they owe to him-encouragement to the believer to persist in devotion to Christ
- A bond and pledge of communion and fellowship between Christ (1 Cor. 10:16–17) and each other.

Discussion: Why must Communion remain central in the church's worship life?

Paragraph 2

In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to his Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sin of the quick or dead, but only a memorial of that one offering up of himself by himself upon the cross, once for all;³ and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God for the

same.⁴ So that the popish sacrifice of the mass, as they call it, is most abominable, injurious to Christ's own sacrifice the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

³ [Heb. 9:25–26,28](#)

⁴ [1 Cor. 11:24](#); [Matt. 26:26–27](#)

A. Not a Re-sacrifice

- Rejects the Roman Catholic doctrine of the Mass as a re-offering of Christ.
- Christ's sacrifice was "*once for all*" (Hebrews 10:10–14).

B. Spiritual Participation

- The bread and wine symbolize, but do not become, Christ's body and blood.
- Believers truly feed on Christ *spiritually by faith* (John 6:53–56; 1 Cor. 10:16).

Illustration: The Supper is not a repetition of Calvary—it's a *remembrance and participation* in its benefits.

Paragraph 3

The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to a holy use, and to take and break the bread; to take the cup, and, they communicating also themselves, to give both to the communicants.⁵

⁵ [1 Cor. 11:23–26](#), etc.

A. Role of the Minister

- Prayer, thanksgiving, and blessing of the elements (1 Cor. 11:23–24).
- Sets apart the common elements for sacred use.

B. Role of the Congregation

- Participation through faith and self-examination (1 Cor. 11:28–29).
- Communion is an act of shared worship—Christ present spiritually among His people (Matt. 18:20).

Paragraph 4

The denial of the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, the lifting them up, or carrying them about for adoration, and reserving them for any pretended religious use, are all contrary to the nature of this ordinance, and to the institution of Christ.⁶

⁶ [Matt. 26:26–28](#), [15:9](#), [Exod. 20:4–5](#)

A. Two Elements for All Believers

- Both bread *and* wine are to be received by all participants (1 Cor. 11:25–26).
- Affirms the priesthood of all believers—no clerical restriction.

B. Spiritual Significance

- The bread = Christ’s body broken for us.
- The cup = His blood shed for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:28).
- Together they signify full participation in Christ’s redemptive work.

VI. Application and Reflection

1. **Examine:** What does your attitude toward Communion reveal about your relationship with Christ?
 2. **Remember:** It’s both remembrance *and* renewal—look back to the cross and forward to the return of Christ.
 3. **Rejoice:** Communion is a gospel celebration, not a mere ritual.
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