

# Scriptural Answers to Questions often asked about the Table of the Lord.

## What about Children?

- Are children welcome to eat and drink at the Table of the Lord?

There are no direct instructions in the Scripture.

## **Jesus accepted children**

We know that Jesus rebuked the disciples for stopping the children coming to Him. ***“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ And He laid His hands on them”*** (Matt.19:13-15).

## **Can a child have saving faith?**

We need to ask ourselves: can a child have saving faith? If so, what prevents them from eating and drinking.

## **The example of Passover**

When the people of Israel kept the first Passover in Egypt, the whole family was involved. They were all protected by the blood of the lamb, and

they were all to eat of the flesh of the lamb (Ex.12). Can you imagine the elders and fathers forbidding the children to eat of the flesh of the lamb?

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## Must a person be baptised before they can partake of the Lord’s Table?

- Should baptism come before partaking of the Lord’s Table?

Again, there are no direct instructions in the Scripture.

## **The patten of Scripture**

If we look at the pattern of the Exodus from Egypt, the people who ate the flesh of the lamb and were protected by the blood, were not baptised before they ate. The Bible says they were baptised into Moses by passing through the Red Sea (1Cor.10:2).

- They partook of the Passover Meal, before they came to the Red Sea.

## **The expectation of the Scripture**

The normal expectation of the Scripture is that when a person believes in Jesus Christ they are to be

baptised. Peter said on the day of Pentecost, ***“Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ ...”*** (Acts 2:38), and in Acts 2:41 it says ***“Those who gladly received his word were baptised; and that day ...”***

They continued in ‘the Breaking of Bread’ – Acts 2:42

Those who were baptised continued in the breaking of bread, daily and from house to house (Acts 2:41-46).

## **Many do not follow Biblical practice**

Many modern churches and ministries do not baptise new believers immediately and therefore they face the issue of ‘should an unbaptised person partake?’

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## What elements can be used?

- Do we need to use ‘bread’ and ‘juice’

## **Jesus took bread, and He took the cup.**

The Scripture never actually says in the New Testament that there was wine in the cup. Jesus referred to the ***“fruit of the vine”***

(Lu.22:18, Mk.14:25, Matt.26:29).

## Denominational Practice

Older denominational churches generally use alcoholic wine, believing that is the Scriptural practice. Many of the newer denominations use grape juice.

- **The Scripture does not specify the nature of the contents of the cup**, whether it was alcoholic or non-alcoholic.

Therefore, we should not make an issue of the element of drink used.

Most born again and Spirit filled churches use grape juice or a coloured cordial. So, what about coca cola or other cordial drinks? What about tea?

## What if there is no bread or juice available?

How can people in an isolated village purchase bread and grape juice when there is no shop and they do not have bread as part of their normal diet, nor do they grow grapes.

We must **answer these questions practically** and realise that **the Table of the Lord is a time to remember Him**, as we eat and drink in a focused way.

## Would Jesus eat & drink with you?

If Jesus came to your house in the village and **all you had to offer** to Him was the staple **diet that you normally ate** and your **normal drink**, even if it was just water, **would Jesus eat and drink with you?** And would he refuse to eat and drink with your children?

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## Who Can Minister the Table of the Lord?

- ➔ Do we need an 'ordained' priest to minister the Table?

## The Old Testament practice

Under the Old Testament law, **only the priests** were to make the sacrifices at the altar and were able to partake of the offering (**Lev.7:5-6**).

## Who are the Priests in the New Testament?

**Revelation 1:6** tells us that Jesus Christ who *"washed us from our sins in His own blood"* (v.5) has *"made us kings and priests to His God and Father"*.

In **Revelation 5:10** the people of God are now called 'priests': *"And have*

*made us kings and priests to our God. And we shall reign on the earth."*

## The people of God are all priests

**1 Peter 2:5** confirms that now we are all priests who are able to offer spiritual sacrifices to God: *"You also as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

- Any believer who has faith in Jesus is qualified to minister at the Lord's Table.

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## How often can we take the Lord's Table?

- There is evidence to suggest that the early church came together to break bread *"on the first day of the week"* **Acts 20:7**
- From **Acts 2:46** we know that the early church **broke bread daily**, and **from house to house**.

The first Christians met **daily in houses** and **broke bread daily in the houses**. Vital to the restoration of apostolic Christianity is the restoration of the **breaking of bread in the homes among believers whenever they meet.**