

# THE TABLE OF THE LORD

In the context of Jesus celebrating the traditional Passover Meal, He gave us the 'Table of the Lord'.

[Also called: 'the Last Supper' & 'the Communion'; referred to as 'the Lord's Table' & the 'Breaking of Bread']

**Matthew 26:26-28** *"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'*

*Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'"*

[The Table of the Lord is also recorded in **Mark 14:22-24** & **Luke 22:19-20**].

➔ **Note:** Jesus gave us 'the Table of the Lord' in a house and in the context of a meal, (**Matt.26:18**).

The early church celebrated the Lord's Table, daily and from house to house

**Acts 2:42** *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

**Acts 2:46** *"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house ..."*

The apostle Paul gave instructions about the Table of the Lord in  
**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

We are to 'Remember Jesus'

Jesus said do this *"in remembrance of Me"* (v.24-25)

- The Lord's Table is not a time to remember our sins, but to remember the One who came to take away our sins!

Eat and drink in faith

Jesus said 'Take, eat' and when He took the cup said, 'as often as you drink'.

**Verse 27** refers to not partaking in an 'unworthy' manner. This simply means not accepting what Jesus has done for us by dying on the cross for our sins.

- Do you believe that Jesus died for your sin, and rose again?

How often do we remember Jesus?

Jesus is to be the focus of the Table of the Lord. In **1 Corinthians 11:25** Jesus said *"as often ..."*

The question we need to ask is 'how often do we want to remember Jesus'?

The early church broke bread daily and from house to house (**Acts 2:46**).

- There should be no restrictions on where or how often we remember Jesus at the Table of the Lord.

Jesus established a New Covenant

In all the accounts of the Lord's Table in the New Testament, Jesus speaks of the cup as being the cup of the *"New Covenant"*.

**Hebrews 8:10-12** lists the **four promises** of the New Covenant.

The four promises are:

1. *"I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts"*
2. *I will be their God, and they shall be My people*
3. *All shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them*
4. *I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

### Until He Comes

**1 Corinthians 11:26** says that *“as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes”*.

- Every time we partake of the Table of the Lord, we are proclaiming that Jesus died, that He rose from the dead, and that He is coming again!

**Note:** Again, the Scripture says *“as often”* showing us this can be a daily practice.

### What does it mean to ‘examine ourselves’ – 1 Corinthians 11:28

This is not speaking of focusing on how sinful we are! **2 Corinthians 13:5** tells us what the examination is: *“**Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?**”*

- Do you believe that Jesus took away your sin? Are you born again? Does Jesus dwell in your heart through faith?
- If so, you are welcome at the table to eat and drink of the Lord’s body and blood.

### The Lord’s Table is a ‘fellowship’ with Christ

Paul teaches us that *“the cup of blessing that we bless ... is the communion [or fellowship] of the blood of Christ! The bread which we break is ... the communion [or fellowship] of the body of Christ” (1Cor.10:16)*.

- The Lord’s Table is a fellowship in the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

### The Table of the Lord is a reality

Jesus said, *“this is My body, which is broken for you”* and *“This cup is the New Covenant in My blood”*

**1 Corinthians 11:24-25.**

The reality is that Jesus’ body was broken for us, and His blood was shed. The bread and the cup are not ‘symbols’, they are spiritual realities. We are proclaiming what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

### The Table of the Lord is a Kingdom Meal

Jesus said in **Luke 22:16**, *“I will no longer eat of it [the Passover meal] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God”*.

Jesus fulfilled Passover when He died as the *“**Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**”* John 1:29.

**1 Corinthians 5:7b** *“For indeed Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us”*.

- Now we can eat and drink with Him in His kingdom!
- Come to the Table believing in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
- Our sins are fully remitted, and we are to no longer walk in shame, guilt or condemnation.
- Receive what Jesus has done for us on the cross.
- We have been made acceptable to God, through faith in the body and blood of Jesus.
- We are to eat and drink with reverence, fully apprehending the importance of this remembrance meal.
- Let us come in faith, not doubting the reality of what Jesus did in allowing His body to be broken for us.

**Let us examine our practice of the Lord’s Table in the light of Scripture.**