

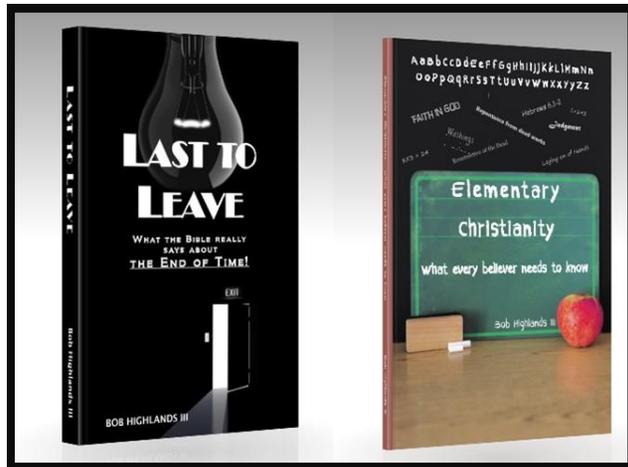
## 1 Corinthians Study Guide

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## THE EIGHTH PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

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The translation quoted here is the New International Version (NIV)

### **How "NOT" TO DO COMMUNION** **1 Corinthians 11.17-34** <sup>NASB</sup>

#### **The difference between a Sacrament and an Ordinance:**

The term ordinance is used predominately by Protestants and Evangelicals.

There are three ordinances:

1. Communion: Luke 22.19
2. Baptism: Matthew 28.18-20
3. Foot washing: John 13.14\*

\*Not all Protestants practice foot washing but it does follow the prescribed requirements set below.

The Ordinances are considered such because:

- ♦ They were instituted by Jesus & given to the church.
- ♦ They were passed on by Jesus to his disciples.
- ♦ They were practiced by the early church.
- ♦ They are seen as symbolic reminders to be practiced.

The term "sacrament" is used predominately by the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. A few Protestant churches also use the term.

There are traditionally seven sacraments:

1. Baptism, which the Roman Catholic Church teaches removes original sin while infusing the act with sanctifying grace.

2. Penance, in which one confesses his/her sins to a priest.
3. The Eucharist, considered the reception and consumption of the actual body and blood of Christ.
4. Confirmation, a formal acceptance into the church along with special anointing of the Holy Spirit.
5. Anointing of the sick, performed by a priest using oil. The priest anoints the sick person's forehead and hands with oil. This is associated not only with bodily healing but with forgiveness of sins. When performed on a dying person, it is called Extreme Unction (or last rites or final anointing).
6. Holy Orders, the process by which men are ordained to clergy.
7. Matrimony, which provides special grace to a couple.  
<http://www.gotquestions.org/seven-Catholic-sacraments.html> accessed 3-3-15

Sacraments are considered such because:

- ◆ There were instituted by Christ & given to the church.
- ◆ They are considered necessary for salvation.
- ◆ They are considered to convey the grace of God.

The sacraments are ministered or considered a necessary part of the salvation experience. These are in effect a way of earning your salvation. This is in contrast to what the Bible says about salvation. Writing to the church at Galatia Paul said, "*nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.*" Gal. 2.16 Even though Paul was not talking about the sacraments but the Jewish law the parallel is there. The sacraments are works or actions we take to earn salvation. Scripture is clear we do not earn it, but salvation is a free gift.

The ordinances are practiced as reminders of our salvation, service and submission to Jesus.

1. Communion: Is a reminder of what Jesus has done to procure our salvation. The believer

- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.31 How would their taking His approach to communion change their lives?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.32 Why is God's discipline of the believers intended to help them and not to hurt them?

1 Corinthians 11.33-34

- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.33 If they are going to share a communion meal or the Lord's Supper together what is one possible solution Paul share with them?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.34 What is the second possible solution Paul shares with them?
- ◆ How are these two approaches different from each other?
- ◆ Which one is the better way to handle it?
- ◆ Why would he have the second solution at all?
- ◆ What is Paul planning to do when he get to visit the church at Corinth?

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- ◆ How is this different from what they are doing?
- ◆ When should believers share communion together?
- ◆ What is the danger of taking communion too often?
- ◆ What is the danger of rarely taking communion?
- ◆ What is the key reason in sharing communion?

Read 1 Corinthians 11.27-32

- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.27 What is the warning Paul is giving here?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.28 How should each believer apply this to their life when preparing to share in communion?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.29 Who is responsible for making the right judgment of decision when it comes to taking communion?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.30 What does Paul see as the results of their sinful actions and attitudes?

should always remember the great cost and value of this gift of God.

2. Baptism: is about following directions and discovering where we can serve Jesus.
3. Foot washing: Is symbolic of submission living our lives for Jesus.

### **The history of communion:**

Communion is based up on the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. The meal they ate on the night they left became an annual event to remind them of their deliverance by the hand of God. This Seder meal has several key elements:

- ⇒ The roasted lamb: This to remind them of the blood of the lamb that placed on the door post caused the death angel to pass over them.
- ⇒ The Unleavened Bread: called "the bread of affliction" is to remind them they had to bake and eat it rapidly as they prepared to leave.
- ⇒ The four cups of wine: (and a key phrase from the Jewish Seder meal.)



1. Cup of deliverance: "I will take you out..."
2. Cup of salvation: "I will save you..."
3. Cup of redemption: "I will redeem you..." (Note: it is this third cup Jesus raised and says, "This is my blood...")
4. Cup of adoption: "I will take you as a nation..."

- ⇒ The bitter herbs: To remind them of the terrible time spend as slaves in Egypt.

How is each one of these a symbol of the Christian faith and experience with Jesus.

- ⇒ The Lamb: John 1.29 & 36

- ⇒ The Bread: John 6.35 & 48

- ⇒ The Wine: Hebrews 9.12

⇒ The Herbs: Romans 6.22-23

### **From Seder to Communion:**

Jesus was eating the Passover or Seder meal with His disciples the night before His death. It is at this meal he took the bread and wine and changed their meaning for those who would become believers in His divine nature and accept His free gift of salvation.

*"And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." Luke 22.19-20*

- ◆ How is the first Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12-13) symbolic of what Jesus would do for all of humanity?
- ◆ How many different symbols can you list from the first Passover that relate to the salvation experience of believers?

### **Communion at Corinth:**

The early church continued the practice of the Seder meal but with the new meaning as set out by Jesus. This was a large complete meal held in the church to remember Jesus and His sacrifice. That is not how the church at Corinth was handling the communion meal.

Read 1 Corinthians 11.17-22

- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.17 Does Paul see the gathering of the church for communion?

- ◆ 1 Cor. 11.18 What are some of the divisions Paul has already spoken about in the book of Corinth?
  - ◆ 1 Cor. 11.19 What is the one positive Paul can find in all the problems in the church at Corinth?
  - ◆ 1 Cor. 11.20-21 Describe what is happening "the Lord's Supper" in the church at Corinth.
  - ◆ Why would some be hungry at this meal?
  - ◆ Why would some be drunk at this meal?
  - ◆ 1 Cor. 11.22 What is Paul's short term solution for the church at Corinth?
  - ◆ How does he describe the way they are acting in the church?
  - ◆ What is Paul's personal reaction to their communion meal and fellowship time?
- Read 1 Corinthians 11.23-26
- ◆ What is Paul reminding them of here?