

THE LORD'S SUPPER

WCC observes the Lord's Supper (AKA communion) every time we hold a regular church service. We feel that this weekly reminder of Christ's love is paramount to our worship experience.

12 REASONS FOR WEEKLY OBSERVANCE:

A God Who has shown Himself orderly in setting dates for memorials under the Old Testament, such as the Passover or Feast of Tabernacles, would surely have His apostles set aside for us a day to remember the most important event in history. Would God leave us in the dark for such an important memorial? If so, it would be the first memorial without a designated frequency.

The apostles set the precedent for a weekly observance. On the first day of every week, the early Christians gathered for the purpose of sharing in the memorial supper (Acts 20:7). Acts 2:42 says "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." But on a quarterly basis? We think not.

To gather together in memory of Christ and not having the memorial supper would be like gathering together to honor a great hero and not unveiling his statue.

One day is set apart by example for a special use. Christians gather on this day. Why? Is there a command to do so? Not really. There is only an example. The same Scripture that tells us when the early Christians met also tells us why they met. They met "to break bread". If we meet, then we should have the Lord's Supper.

What day do we meet on? Something monumental happened on Sunday, or it would not have been set apart as "the Lord's Day." At least five important things happened on Sunday:

- A. Jesus arose from the dead
- B. Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection
- C. The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost (Sunday)
- D. The church was established on Sunday
- E. The first gospel message was offered, and people first became Christians on Sunday.

The early Christians, led by the apostles, met each Sunday to "break bread" in commemoration of these important events.

In rebuking the Corinthians for abusing the Lord's Supper, Paul says, "When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk" (1 Corinthians 11:20-21). He tells them they were perverting the purpose for their coming together, which indicates they were supposed to be coming together to eat the Lord's Supper.

There is no Scripture which can show weekly assembly that does not suggest the observance of the Lord's Supper. Since we assemble on each Lord's Day because of the example of the early Christians, why not observe the memorial meal as they did?

Hebrews 10:19-31 connects "meeting together" with "the blood of the covenant," which the Lord's Supper represents. We are admonished not to "give up meeting together" and told that to do so "deliberately" is to trample "the Son of God under foot" and to treat "as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant" and to insult "the Spirit of grace."

In Luke 22:29-30, Jesus told His apostles that He had conferred on them a kingdom in which they "may eat and drink at [His] table." This was said at the time He instituted the Lord's Supper. Surely we are in good company in sitting at the Table of His kingdom on a weekly basis.

The first part of 1 Corinthians 16:2 says, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..." This is often used to show that we should give a weekly offering. Then why not use Acts 20:7, which says, "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread" to show that we should observe the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis? Is it possible that it is important to collect money on Sunday but not important to remember the Lord by participation at His Table?

Since there is a precedent for weekly observance, and many are agreed that the Scriptures should be the rule of faith and practice, we see a weekly Sunday observance as a common basis for the unity of all believers.

WHAT CHURCH LEADERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT COMMUNION:

R.A. TORREY (former Moody Bible Institute President): "It is true that I personally believe that the Lord's Supper ought to be partaken of every Lord's Day."

ALEXANDER CARSON (Baptist): "There is admirable wisdom in the appointment of Jesus in the observance of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. Would it be any loss to them if all the churches of Christ were to return to the primitive practice?"

JOHN WESLEY (Methodist): "I also advise the elders to administer the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day."

JOHN CALVIN (Presbyterian): "Every week, at least, the Table of the Lord should have been spread and the promises declared, by which in partaking of it, we might be spiritually fed."