

LORD'S SUPPER

- I. Biblical references to Lord's Supper
 - Matt. 26:26-30
 - Mk. 14:22-25
 - Lk. 22:14-20
 - Acts 2:46
 - Acts 20:7,11
 - I Cor. 5:7,8
 - I Cor. 10:16,17,21
 - I Cor. 11:20-26

- II. Institution and Apostolic development of Lord's Supper
 - A. Jesus partook of Last Supper with His disciples -
Matt. 26:26-30; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:14-20; I Cor. 11:20-26
 1. Was this a Passover meal?
 - a. Evidence against.
 - (1) No mention of paschal lamb at meal.
 - (2) Prior to Passover observance - Jn. 18:28; 19:14,31
 - b. Evidence for.
 - (1) Passover observance - Mk. 14:1,12,16; Lk. 22:8,13,16
 - (2) Passover interpretations
 - (a) Christ as Passover lamb - I Cor. 5:7
 - (b) Messianic deliverance -
 - (c) Covenantal meal - Mk. 14:24; Lk. 22:20
 2. Did Jesus intend to institute a traditional observance?
 - a. Some deny
 - b. Jesus commanded such - I Cor. 11:25
 - B. Early church celebrated Lord's Supper - Acts 2:42-46; 20:7; I Cor. 11:20-22
 1. Part of their corporate worship
 - a. Frequency? Acts 20:7
 - b. Connected to love feast? I Cor. 11:21
 2. Seems to have been regarded as a continuation of the "table fellowship" of Jesus Christ and His own in the kingdom.
 3. Soon corrupted - I Cor. 11:21

- III. Changing interpretation of the Lord's Supper in Christian history
 - A. 1st and 2nd centuries
 1. Important feature of public worship
 2. Regarded as important to fellowship and union.
 - B. 3rd century
 1. Stressed real presence of Christ in the elements
 2. First references to Lord's Supper as a sacrifice
 - C. 4th and 5th centuries
 1. Ambrose - transformation of elements into body and blood of Christ
 2. Sacrament of Eucharist regarded as sacrifice of Christ and oneself
 - D. Later centuries in Roman Catholic Church
 1. Transubstantiation of elements into body and blood of Jesus.
 2. Partaking of Eucharist infuses God's grace into Christian.
 3. Referred to as "mass"- Latin *ite missa est*, "Go, you are dismissed"
 4. Elaborate ritualistic celebration developed
 5. 12th century - laity no longer received cup, lest blood of Christ be spilled.

- E. 16th century Protestant Reformation
 - 1. Rejected transubstantiation doctrine.
 - 2. Denied that mass was sacrifice offered to God
- IV. Biblical understanding of the Lord's Supper.
- A. An act of obedience
 - 1. "Do this in remembrance of Me" - I Cor. 11:24
 - 2. An ordinance of the Church, ordained by Jesus as obedient act of remembrance.
 - B. An act of identification
 - 1. "eat the Lord's Supper" - I Cor. 11:20
 - 2. Jesus hosts the Supper for those who know Him and are identified with Him.
 - a. The Lord knows whose are His - II Tim. 2:19
 - b. Not our place to invite or debar
 - C. An act of covenant
 - 1. "this cup is the new covenant in My blood" - I Cor. 11:25
 - 2. New arrangement between God and men in Jesus Christ
 - a. Old covenant obsolete - Heb. 8:13
 - b. New covenant is final covenant
 - D. An act of participation
 - 1. "communion in the blood and body of Jesus" - I Cor. 10:16
 - 2. Unified in "common union" of fellowship around Jesus Christ.
 - a. Not an individualistic act
 - b. Collective and corporate act of church
 - E. An act of thanksgiving
 - 1. "when He had given thanks He broke bread" - I Cor. 11:24
 - 2. *Eucharist* is transliteration of Greek "to give thanks"
 - a. From two Greek words: *eu* = good; *charis* = grace
 - b. Recognize "good grace" of God in gratitude
 - F. An act of representation
 - 1. "this is My body...this is My blood" - I Cor. 11:24,25
 - 2. Must avoid crass materialistic literalism
 - a. Jesus spoke figuratively & metaphorically - Jn. 6:48-58
 - b. Doctrines of transubstantiation and consubstantiation
 - G. An act of commemoration
 - 1. "Do this in remembrance of Me" - I Cor. 11:24
 - 2. A memorial observance
 - a. Not an altar of confession, to remember your sins
 - b. But a table of memory to remember Jesus
 - H. An act of examination
 - 1. "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat.." - I Cor. 11:28
 - 2. Self-examination
 - a. Not navel-gazing introspection of sinfulness
 - b. But examine our mind-set, attitudes, motives
 - (1) We are all unworthy of what Christ did
 - (2) But we are not to partake "unworthily" - I Cor. 11:29
 - I. An act of proclamation
 - 1. "as oft as you eat...you proclaim the Lord's death" - I Cor. 11:26
 - 2. We proclaim that we are believers in the efficacy of Christ's death, resurrection and life.
 - J. An act of anticipation
 - 1. "you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" - I Cor. 11:26
 - 2. Expectation of the consummation of Jesus' work