



*“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom” (Matthew 26:26-29, KJV).*

The words of the beautiful song, *When We Meet In Sweet Communion*, so appropriately describes the sentiment of the Lord's Supper

When we meet in sweet communion where the feast divine is spread  
Hearts are brought in closer union while partaking of the bread  
God so loved what wondrous measure! Loved and gave the best of heaven.  
Bought us with that matchless treasure, Yea, for us His life was given  
Feast divine, all else surpassing, precious blood for you and me  
While we sup, Christ gently whispers: “Do this in my memory.”

Chorus:

Precious feast all else surpassing, Wondrous love for you and me.  
While we feast Christ gently whispers, “Do this in my memory.”

Let us consider the Meaning of the Supper:

### **1. It is a Memorial**

Paul instructs the Corinthian church of Christ that Jesus had taught: *“do this in remembrance of me”* (1 Cor. 11:23-25). It is in the Lord's Supper where we are to commemorate the death of Jesus upon the cross whereby He made possible salvation (Mt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7) and brought about a New Covenant (Heb. 9:16). Just as the Passover was a memorial of Israel's deliverance from Egypt, so the Lord's Supper is a memorial of our Lord's death, which makes possible our deliverance from the bondage of sin.

### **2. It is a Proclamation**

Paul continued in 1 Corinthians 11:26, *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”* The Supper preaches a sermon in itself. We are saying we believe in Jesus' death for our sins. We are also saying we believe in the Lord's return, because we preach this sermon until He comes again. The Lord's Supper looks forward as well as backwards, and His disciples who trust in His redemption and anticipate His return will observe it.

### 3. It is a Communion

In the previous chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul spoke of the Lord's Supper in terms of communion or fellowship. *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread"* (1 Cor. 10:16-17). We share in the blood of Christ and in the body of Christ.

The observance of the Lord's Supper is to be done in reverence (1 Cor. 11:27, 29). It is also to be taken with self-examination of how we partake of it (v. 28). Paul reminds the Corinthians about *"discerning the Lord's body"* (v. 24, 27). Therefore, when we partake with our minds occupied or pre-occupied with something other than *"remembrance"* of the Lord's death (v. 26, we become guilty of that death (v. 27) and ultimately would stand *"condemned"* (v. 32).

The observance of the Lord's Supper is also to be done with other Christians. The joint participation or *"communion"* with Christ and with other Christians shows forth a unity whereby we can rightly be called *"one body"* (1 Cor. 10:17). The Corinthians had been guilty of division and factions and so it was *"not possible to eat the Lord's Supper"* (1 Cor. 11:20). The observance of the Supper was to be done often. We know it was done weekly (Acts 20:7). It was done on the first day of each week as evidenced in the weekly assembly of the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 10-11; 16:1,2).

One has rightly said: "Our spiritual lives are dependent upon the value and benefits of our Lord's death on the cross." Therefore, a weekly observance of this great memorial helps us to live appreciatively and accordingly.

~Wayne Rodgers