

The Banquet Table

For centuries, the Lord's Supper has been one of the most hotly debated doctrines of Christianity. What began in the 1st century as a homey, almost non religious celebration, had by the 2nd century turned into an exclusive ritual. By the 4th century it was removed from general practice and administered only by the clergy. It became known as the "mass" for the Catholics and "The Lord's Supper" for the Protestants but there was barely any distinguishable difference.

The change in the observance and meaning was largely due to the prevailing theological perspectives of being united with Christ or still separated by sin. Still today, these two perspectives determine how we see and participate in this event established by Jesus.

The two perspectives:

1. We are united in Christ
I am dead to sin

2. We are separate from Christ
Sin is still an issue

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A festive Celebration meal - "love feast" (Acts 2:46; Jude 12) b. Inclusive and sharing environment - the judgement was not waiting for others (1 Cor. 11:21) c. A remembrance of Jesus, "do this in remembrance of Me", (1 Cor. 11:24) d. A kingdom banquet table (Matt. 26:29; Rev. 19:7-9) e. The participant becomes the body and blood. "unless you eat of my flesh.."(Jn. 6:53) f. The bread is me - I became His body. (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph.5:30) g. The blood - His Life in me - "drink all of it" (Matt.26:27; Jn.1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3) h. Profession of my life in Him, His presence in me. He is my life. (Gal.2:20; Heb.10:22-25) i. Goal = to encourage boldness in Christ till He comes. (1 Cor. 11:26) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Solemn, sacred, dangerous sacrament (Clement, et.al. 4th -5th c.) b. Personal introspection (John Calvin) c. The remembrance of an event - what He did for me, the "horrors" d. An altar of sacrifice (Irenaeus 130-200) e. The elements are the body and blood of Christ. (10th c. "transubstantiation") f. The bread = "this is my body, given <i>for</i> you" (wafer) g. The cup = sacrifice for my sins (shot glass) h. A service of confession (Catholic "Mass"; Protestant "confession") i. Goal = humility, godliness, fearfulness as a believer
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Let's celebrate who God says we are:

1. Members of His body, Flesh of His flesh. Eph. 5:30
2. He lives in us, we live in Him. Jn. 14:20
3. God is manifesting Christ and us together in one form. Rom. 8:29
4. I am saved by His life in me. Rom. 5:10 (blood is the life)
5. He is my life. I have no other life. Gal. 2:20