

Doctrine of the Church, Lesson 8

The Lord's Supper, Part 2: Who it's for - Who should take it and why?

Main texts on this issue: 1 Cor. 5:6-11; 10:16-22; 11:17-34

Read: 1 Cor. 11:17-34

- I. The Lord's Supper is for local churches
 - A. The Lord's Supper is meant to be taken with local church congregations
 1. 1 Cor. 11:33-34: "So then, my brothers, *when you come together to eat*, wait for one another - if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home - so that when you come together, it will not be for judgment."
 2. In Acts, we see the church take the Lord's Supper *every time* they gather¹
 - a) Acts 2:42 says "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, and to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
 - b) Acts 20:7: "On the first day of the week when we were *gathered together to break bread...*"
 - B. The Lord's Supper is part of what makes a church a church
 1. 1 Cor. 10:17: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." - Taking communion makes us "one body."
- II. Local churches have the responsibility of "fencing the table" - regulating who can and cannot take Communion
 - A. The *authority* to fence the table: the Keys of the Kingdom (Matt. 16:19)
 - B. The *necessity* of fencing the table: so that people don't drink judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-32)
- III. The Lord's Supper is for:
 - A. Believers
 - B. Those who are baptized
 - C. Those who are in good standing with a true, gospel-believing church
 1. 1 Cor. 27-29
 2. 1 Cor. 5:9-11

¹ For more, see, for example, Van Neste's article, "The Lord's Supper in the Context of the Local Church," in *The Lord's Supper: Remembering and Proclaiming Christ Until He Comes*, eds. Thomas Schreiner and Matthew Crawford, p. 370.