

## The Lord's Supper

In this study, we will look at each of the 4 gospel accounts, and also what Paul had to say .... about this **Old Testament Passover** .... which became the **New Testament communion .... or Lord's Supper.** But 1st, let's back up. On the 4th day of creation (Gen 1:14-19), God made the **sun** to rule the day, and the **moon** to rule the night ....thus establishing the counting of 'time'. Each new day began at evening (Gen 1:5):

**Gen 1:14** And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and **for days, and years:**

God also instituted a week to consist of 7 days (Gen 2:1-3).

The 7th day is the sabbath of the Lord (Exo 20:8-11):

**Matt 28:1** **In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week,** came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

God, through Moses, brought Israel out of slavery in Egypt in the 1st month of their year, called 'Abib'. It 'nearly' corresponds with April:

**Exo 13:4** This day came ye out in the month Abib. (also Deut 16:1)

**Exo 12:1-2** And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,  
2 This month (also translated 'moon', as the 'new moon') shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

The passover feast was proclaimed on the 14th of Abib:

**Lev 23:4-5** These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even  
is **the LORD'S passover.**

Passover was established for Israel, by God, to be a feast to the Lord as an ordinance for ever .... in memory of the 10th plague, where-after by Moses, God delivered them from 400 years of slavery in Egypt (Gen 15:13, Exo 12:40-43, Acts 7:6):

**Exo 12:12-14** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 And **this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.**

With that background .... fast-forward to Jesus, keeping the Passover with His disciples, where-in He initiated communion at the Lord's table:

**Matt 26:18** And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; **I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.**

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

The unleavened bread became the metaphor for Jesus' body that was sacrificed and the contents of the cup represented His blood that was shed:

**Matt 26:26-29** 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.**

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;**

28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

29 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.**

There are 3 points to notice in Mark's account compared to Matthew's:

1. Mark did not include the mention of **the forgiveness of sins**, but since Matthew's record does .... it was obviously said by our Lord.
2. Mark also identifies the contents of the cup to be **the fruit of the vine**.
3. 'The kingdom of God' equates to Jesus saying 'my Father's kingdom':

**Mark 14:24-25** And he said unto them, **This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.**

25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of **the fruit of the vine**, until that day that I drink it new **in the kingdom of God**.

Luke's report also states that Jesus will not only .... 'not drink' .... but He will also 'not eat' unleavened bread .... until He does so in God's kingdom.

**Luke 22:15** And he said unto them,  
With desire I have desired to **eat this passover** with you before I suffer:

16 For I say unto you, **I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**

17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said,

Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of **the fruit of the vine**, until **the kingdom of God** shall come.

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body which is given for you:**

**this do in remembrance of me.**

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying,

**This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.**

John recorded Jesus' words about His flesh and blood rather than Passover:

**John 6:53-56** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life;**  
and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Just what was 'the fruit of the vine'? **Was it grape juice or wine?**

1st, we see that **blood is represented in the juice of grapes** .... which

we know that, when fermented, becomes wine that can be intoxicating:

**Gen 49:11** Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in **wine**, and his clothes in **the blood of grapes**:

**Deut 32:14** Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and **thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.**

2nd, the term 'new wine' is the fresh pressed juice of a cluster of grapes,

which was a blessing from the produce of the land, as good agriculture:

**Isa 65:8** Thus saith the LORD, As **the new wine is found in the cluster**, and one saith, Destroy it not; **for a blessing is in it**; so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.

Paul referred to the 'communion cup' .... as the cup of blessing:

**1 Cor 10:16-17** **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?**

17 For **we being many are one bread, and one body:**  
 for **we are all partakers of that one bread.**

3rd, the 2 Greek words that were translated as 'the **fruit** of the **vine**' are

**not the same** .... as the 1 Greek word that was translated '**wine**'.

Thus, we understand that the cup Jesus spoke of contained 'the juice of the grapes' .... not 'wine' .... not fermented. A synonym for 'ferment' is

'leaven' which represents sin. 'Grape juice without ferment' equals blood

without sin - just like the 'unleavened' bread represents a body without sin.

Those who partake are those who have put on the new man (Eph 4:24) ....

in righteousness and true holiness:

**1 Cor 10:21** Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils:  
ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Jesus would not be joined to an harlot and neither should we (1 Cor 6:15).

The carnal mind is enmity against God (Rom 8:7).

Whoever is a friend of the world is the enemy of God (James 4:4).

Before you partake .... where do you stand?

Jesus made is clear .... you are on one side or the other .... not both:

**Matt 12:30** He that is not with me is against me;  
and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Paul related these elements, at the Lord's table .... the cup and the unleavened bread .... to Christ, as our Passover .... Who delivered us from so great a death (2 Cor 1:10) .... by His sacrifice (Heb 10:5-10).

**1 Cor 5:6-8** Your glorying is not good.  
Know ye not that **a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**  
7 **Purge out therefore the old leaven,**  
**that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.**  
**For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**  
8 **Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven,**  
**neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness;**  
but with **the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Before we keep the feast ....

we are to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts (James 4:8):

**2 Tim 2:21** If a man therefore **purge himself** from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

Before we participate in the communion of the body and blood of Christ ....  
 let us be sure we are separated. Dare we think God will receive us if we  
 are not? We deserve not a crumb of His bread, nor a sip of His cup ....  
 yet we are His temple (1 Cor 3:17, Eph 2:21). He will allow no idols there:

**2 Cor 6:14-18** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:  
 for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?  
 and what communion hath light with darkness?  
 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial?  
 or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?  
 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?  
 for **ye are the temple of the living God;**  
 as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them;  
 and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
 17 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,** saith  
 the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,  
 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,  
 saith the Lord Almighty.

**2 Cor 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved,  
**let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,**  
**perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

People know us .... people read us. We are the epistle of Christ to them.

What do they know of us? What do they read?

Do they know we do not trust in ourselves .... but in Christ?

Do they read of God's Spirit who gives eternal life?

**2 Cor 3:2-6** Ye are our epistle written in our hearts,  
 known and read of all men:  
 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ  
 ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God;  
 not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.  
 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:  
 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves;  
 but our sufficiency is of **God;**  
 6 **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament;** not  
 of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Do we speak plainly in our ministry of the new testament ....

as we set forth our hope of eternal life in Christ?

**2 Cor 3:12-17** Seeing then that we have such hope,  
**we use great plainness of speech:**

13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of **the old testament;** which veil is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit:

and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

Do we teach liberty in Christ .... that is, the freedom FROM sin ....

not freedom TO sin? We cannot live however we want to live!

**Gal 5:13-17** For, brethren, **ye have been called unto liberty;**  
**only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh,**  
**but by love serve one another.**

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another,

take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,

and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other:

so that **ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

Are we crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20)? Are we crucified unto the world (Gal 6:14)? His love holds us back from living as we should not:

**2 Cor 5:14-15** For **the love of Christ constraineth us;**  
because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:  
15 And that he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

We are to keep God's commandments as the apple of our eye (Prov 7:2).

The conclusion of the whole matter .... the whole duty of man ....

is to fear God and keep His commandments (Ecc 12:13).

We are to walk **worthy .... not UNworthy** of God, who called us unto His kingdom and glory (1 Thess 2:12; 2 Thess 1:5,11; Col 1:10; Eph 4:1).

**1 Cor 11:27-32** Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Before we share in the Lord's supper .... we are to do self-examination:

28 But **let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.**

God's discipline awaits those who partake unworthily .... regardless of 'mid-Acts' doctrine that teaches God does NOT chastise His children today:

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation (**judgment**) to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But **when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord**, that we should not be condemned (**judged worthy of punishment**) with the world.

If we are children of God .... we **will be** corrected by our Heavenly Father:

**Heb 12:5-8** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

7 **If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons;** for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But **if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

We are to 'do' the Lord's supper .... by His command

.... in remembrance of Him:

**1 Cor 11:23-26** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed **took bread:**

We are to 'eat and drink' the Lord's supper .... by His command

.... in remembrance of Him:

24 And when he had **given thanks**, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: **this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.** (Luke 22:19)

25 After the same manner also he **took the cup**, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye,** as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.**

We are to 'eat and drink' at the Lord's table (1 Cor 10:21)

.... in remembrance of His death:

26 For **as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

We are telling God we are thankful for His salvation, realizing its cost.

We are reminding ourselves of our debt to live holy unto Him.

We are showing others our belief in Him and our hope of His coming again:

**Rev 22:20-21** He which testifieth these things saith,  
**Surely I come quickly. Amen.**  
**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*