
Sermon Notes

August 2, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

As Often As You Eat This Bread...

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

Observations

- ❖ God has gathered our congregation from a variety of different backgrounds and denominations, each with its own unique doctrinal emphases and perspectives
- ❖ this includes various views on what the Lord's Supper is, why it is important and how we are to observe it
- ❖ what does Scripture teach about the Lord's Supper?

Ordinances

- ❖ Jesus gives His church two ordinances that He commands us to perform in perpetuity until He returns for His bride
 - **baptism**, a one time event that marks the beginning of the Christian life and calls a new believer to stand up and publicly testify: "I have decided to follow Jesus"
 - **the Lord's Supper**, a regular, repeated part of the Christian life that strengthens, nourishes and nurtures us in faith
 - ordinance = something that was ordained or instituted by Christ

- ❖ Sacrament or Ordinance?
 - in some traditions, the word "sacrament" implies that God conveys or delivers His grace through the actual physical elements used
 - we believe God is graciously involved and God's grace is actively present in both ordinances, but the physical elements used are pictures or symbols of the deeper, spiritual truths the Lord intends for us to grasp
- ❖ In the ordinances God meets with us, ministers to us and strengthens our souls spiritually by faith

The Lord's Supper

- ❖ The Lord's Supper is a shared, spiritual meal in which God's people eat and drink together in order to remember Jesus' sacrifice, proclaim the gospel, and draw near to Christ to have the hunger and thirst of their souls satisfied
- ❖ *This is my body*
 - the breaking of the bread represents what is about to happen to Jesus' body
 - *...given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.* (Luke 22:19)
- ❖ **REMEMBER, REMEMBER, REMEMBER**
 - we have short memories!
 - we easily forget the Lord's blessings and benefits, His past mercies and graces
 - example of Israel's need to remember with ceremonies, memorial stones, and monuments

- ❖ The Lord commands us to share this memorial supper to help us with our faint and feeble memories
 - Jesus wants His first and future disciples to remember His voluntary sacrifice, His shed blood, His suffering to obtain the blessings of the new covenant, His promise to come again
 - **NEVER FORGET...** never gloss over it or take it for granted
 - **REMEMBER** your broken Christ and let that memory break your heart over your sin
- ❖ “We should exercise a remembrance of Christ that is full of awe, reverence, brokenhearted mourning over our sins, hatred against our own sins, thankfulness, and trust in Christ for our full justification.” (John Willison)
- ❖ A time for **PROCLAMATION**
 - when we remember our Lord in this way with these representations of His wounded and pierced body and His shed blood we proclaim the gospel
 - to ourselves
 - to unbelievers who are present
 - the bread and cup proclaim the saving death AND resurrection of Christ until He comes
- ❖ A feast of faith
 - bread of life and living water (John 6:35)
 - at His table, the Lord renews His promise to be our life-sustaining food and drink
- feast on the fact that Jesus’ blood makes a new covenant with God possible
 - formerly the Law was chiseled on stone
 - now, the Law is written on hearts of flesh
 - the Holy Spirit enables us to live as God wants
 - we have the opportunity and the ability, the power and the promise not just to know about God, but to know God personally
- ❖ Communion with God, communion with one another
 - the Lord’s Supper is not a personal one on one experience between you and God
 - it is a shared experience that provides a powerful testimony and witness to the union and unity we have in Christ
 - just as there is one loaf of bread from which Jesus serves His disciples, there is ONE body (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
- ❖ In an unworthy manner
 - failing to appreciate what the bread and cup signify and understand that Christ loves His church and died for her
 - failing to feel remorse for the ways our attitudes and actions are inconsistent with the love of Christ
 - failing to renounce the sinfulness of those attitudes and actions and turn to the path of Christ’s love
 - failing to trust Jesus for forgiveness and for the power to walk in love