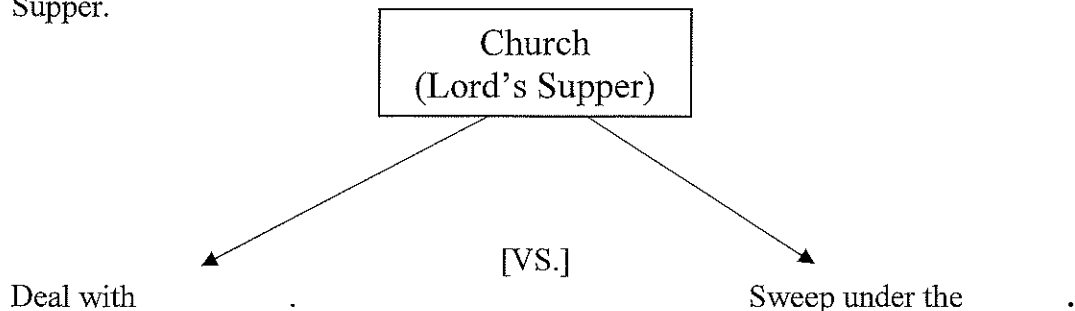


Discipleship 101
Learning to Take Christianity Seriously

Session #9—It's the *Lord's* Supper, not ours!

Part 1: The Lord's Supper and Closed Communion

1. What is close(d) Communion? Burden of Proof = he who _____ must prove.
2. When it comes to the Lord's Supper and close(d) communion, the burden of proof has been _____ even though the burden should be on those who advocate open communion.
3. Scripture has long affirmed that unity means unity in _____. Matthew 16:13-24. Galatians 1:8-9. Romans 16:17-18. 2 Timothy 4:2-4.
4. What reasons or grounds are typically given for the reversal?
 - a. _____. 1 Corinthians 5:6-13, 6:1-3; Hebrews 10:24-30.
 - b. "Who's to say?" Matthew 5:18; 5:26; 6:2,5,16; 8:10; 10:15,23,42; 11:11, etc.
 - c. Not _____. This is the real issue. How do we define the word "love"?
5. The modern definition of love is based on an exploitive understanding where _____ is the objective of love. Therefore, love is considered to be _____, _____, and open (and _____!).
6. So how does Scripture and Jesus present to us the meaning of "love"? Prayer for Rattlesnakes.
7. Christ came to deal with sin. Matthew 1:21.
8. Why bring this up? To understand the Lord's Supper, you have to take seriously that the Church's job is to deal with _____.
9. You have two competing views of the work of the Church and therefore the Lord's Supper.



Call to _____.
 Call to repentance and faith.
 Occurs in the _____ of the
 Church.
 Way of the _____.

Closed communion makes _____.

Be non-judgmental
 "It's just between me and
 God."

Way of _____
 and comfort.

Closed communion makes
 no sense.

10. When we use the Lord's Supper for anything other than dealing with sin, we pervert its institution, purpose, and design. According to Matthew 26:27-28, what is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?
11. St. Paul references sweeping sin under the rug as one of the primary manifestations of sin in the Corinthian congregation. They have divisions and use the Lord's Supper to _____ there's unity. What could be some consequences of misusing the Lord's Supper? See 1 Cor. 11:27-32.
12. We are individuals and members of a community at the same time.
- We are _____ in the heart and _____ with the mouth at the same time (Romans 10:8-10).
 - When you join yourself to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, you are publicly _____ what a denomination confesses _____ as a _____.
 - Before you do this, you should probably find out what a church body _____, and if it (*not* what the pastor says...*not* what your friends say...*not* what you think...but the actual teachings!) doesn't reflect God's Word, you shouldn't commune at the altar!
13. The Lord's Supper and Sexual Intimacy example. Team example.
14. Closed communion and conversations about faith.

Part 2: The Lord's Supper—It's Not for Make Believe.

- What pops in to your head when I use the phrase "make believe"? When is make believe healthy, and when can it become dangerous?
- There's a connection between make believe and perverting something. Adam and Eve example.
- People act, all the time, like they've got stuff figured out. But there's only one person who's got it figured out, and that's God. Proverbs 15:33.

4. Living Together before Marriage Example

The Lord's Supper

1. After last session, what is the main purpose of the Lord's Supper?
2. Read these verses below and underline the parts that help us understand the purpose and design of the Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:26-28. Mark 14:22-25. Luke 22:14-20.

The Names Give Us the Understanding—Names of the Lord's Supper

1. The Lord's Supper.
2. Communion.
3. Sacrament of the Altar.

Part 3: The True Presence of Jesus—Jesus Is *Really* and *Truly* Present in the Lord's Supper!

1. "Is" means "Is"—Mark 14:22, 24
2. Read Matthew 28: 19-20 and Hebrews 13:5. In these verses, Jesus makes it very clear that He is with you. The question is "where?" So, where is Jesus *there* for you for the forgiveness of sins? The _____ of _____.
3. With this in mind, why is it important that the Lord's Supper be the *true* body and blood of Christ?
4. How can Jesus be really present to forgive sins if He's not really present but only present the way a cardboard cutout of a celebrity is present.
5. If you don't think Jesus is really and truly present, then you compromise the _____ of the forgiveness Jesus came to bring because if Jesus really isn't there:

The Lord's Supper Does What Jesus Says It Does, So Don't Misuse It!

1. The Lord's Supper *literally* gives you the forgiveness of sins, and, as the *Small Catechism* states, wherever there is forgiveness, there is also _____ and _____. Why does life and salvation follow from forgiveness of sins? 1 Peter 2:24.
2. If the purpose and design of the Lord's Supper is for the forgiveness of sins, what are some of the ways you could pervert the Lord's Supper?

- a. You're not a _____ and never been baptized, so you don't really even know what sin and salvation in Jesus means.
 - b. People of a different _____ of faith. Why?
 - c. Those who are openly ungodly and unrepentant, living contrary to God's Word. Why would this be a problem? Matthew 7:17-23.
 - d. Those who are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled with their neighbor. Matthew 18:32-35.
3. What do you think the consequence is of misusing the Lord's Supper? 1 Corinthians 11:27-30. Ephesians 4:17-20.
 4. How could the misuse of the Lord's Supper harden your heart? What do you think are the consequences of hardening your heart? Would you consider that judgment? What other things could harden your heart?
 5. The Rule of Correlation (between the high and the low)
 6. Whose job is it to make sure you're not taking the Lord's Supper to your judgement?
 7. Should you come to the Lord's Supper if you're struggling with sin? Why or why not?
 8. Why would a pastor be concerned if you hadn't taken the Lord's Supper in a while?
 9. How often do you think a Christian should take the Lord's Supper?
 10. How does what you've learned about the Lord's Supper impact how you:

Believe

Behave

Belong?