**Why I Love My Church – Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

This morning, we will be blessed by the sharing together of holy communion. We believe that Christ gave two ordinances to the church, the Lord’s supper and baptism. These two serve as a divine drama which picture for the church the redemptive work of Christ.

* **Ordinance or** . What do we, at Broadway Baptist Church, believe concerning the Lord’s Supper?

The word has come to mean, in many people’s minds, as conveying the concept that God's grace is dispersed through participation in the Lord's Supper.

The word is “a direction or a command of an authoritative nature.” The word ordinance is best used to describe the church’s position on baptism and Lord’s Supper for it is simply the church obeying the command of Christ.

**Does holding the view of the Lord’s Supper as an ordinance lessen the importance of its observance? No.**

* **Symbolic memorial or saving .** While almost all Christians practice the Lord’s Supper/Communion, they hold to varied positions concerning the presence of Christ in the elements of Communion.

**Transubstantiation:** The view held by the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church which teaches that once an ordained priest blesses the bread of the Lord's Supper, it is transformed into the actual flesh of Christ (though it retains the appearance, odor, and taste of bread); and when he blesses the wine, it is transformed into the actual blood of Christ (though it retains the appearance, odor, and taste of wine).

**Consubstantiation:** Consubstantiation is the view that the bread and wine of Communion / the Lord's Supper are spiritually the flesh and blood of Jesus, yet the bread and wine are still actually only bread and wine.

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**Symbolic/memorial:** The common Reformed belief is that the Lord's Supper is purely symbolic and functioning to proclaim God's promises. This position has been called symbolic memorialism because it reveals the sacraments function as memorializing Christ's death.

* **The Old Covenant gives way to the New .** (Mark 14:12-16) Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, and a genuine understanding of the Lord’s Supper must begin with this occasion.

(Mark 14:22-24) Jesus used the Passover as the occasion to institute a new memorial that the church was to continue in remembrance of his death.

**Dr. Tom Schreiner, NT Professor at Southern Seminary**, gives the following reasons why the church should joyfully participate in the Lord’s Supper:

* Our life depends on the torn flesh and bloody sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.
* The Lord’s Supper testifies to our unity in one body. We all partake of the “one bread.”
* The Lord’s Supper beautifully portrays the gospel of grace to us.
* The Lord’s Supper points us forward to a future reality, the marriage supper of the Lamb.
* The Lord’s Supper calls us to personal and inward reflection and repentance.

**Preparation for Communion:** We at BBC practice an open communion, which means you do not have to be a member of BBC to share in communion; however, you must be a born-again follower of Christ. If you have not been saved by God’s grace, then please refrain from taking communion.

**Examination:** Communion isn’t for sinless people, but it does require an attitude of repentance and confession of sin in our lives.

**Reflection:** As we come together to the Lord’s table, we reflect upon the death and resurrection of our Lord. We reflect upon the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

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