

## WHY OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Scripture: Selected passages from 1 Corinthians.

Intro: Have you ever noticed in reading through 1 Corinthians how many references there are to the Cross of Christ? They run right through the book from beginning to end!

It is in this Epistle that we have Paul's instructions concerning the Lord's Supper -- which was being perverted like so many other things in the Corinthian Church.

The combination of these two things would lead us to believe that the basic failure of the Corinthian Church was a failure to give the death of Christ its proper place in their thinking, in their lives individually, and in their fellowship with each other.

Can we learn by examining the passages that deal with the death of Christ why it is so important for us to remember the death of Christ, and to observe the Lord's Supper? The answer is, YES!

Tonight let us look at five reasons taken from 1 Corinthians as we why we should observe the Lord's Supper with its emphasis on the death of Christ.

### I. A TIME WHEN CHRIST IS EXALTED -- NOT MAN.

Note the second question in 1 Cor. 1:13.

Cf. also 1 Cor. 1:17, 18.

The exaltation of man in the Corinthian Church had turned the people away from the Lord. Cf. "in remembrance of Me" in 1 Cor. 11:24, 25.

### II. A TIME TO REMEMBER THAT WE BELONG TO HIM -- NOT TO OURSELVES.

Cf. 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 7:23. He has purchased us with a supreme sacrifice. At the Lord's Table we are to remember this.

### III. A TIME TO MANIFEST OUR ONENESS -- NOT DIVISIONS.

The practice of the early Church was evidently to take their bread from one loaf -- and this is why we have Paul's words in 1 Cor. 10:16, 17.

It took the same sacrifice and the same Savior to redeem

each one of us, and this is the basis of our oneness. We all partake of the same sacrifice -- and manifest this by eating of the same bread.

IV. A TIME TO RECOGNIZE OUR SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD -- NOT OUR AGREEMENT WITH IT.

Cf. 1 Cor. 10:20-22.

We do not hear much about this today. Compromise, carnality, worldliness -- these are strangling the vitality out of the Church.

At the Lord's Table we declare ourselves on the Lord's side -- not the devil's, and not the world's.

V. A TIME FOR PERSONAL CLEANSING -- NOT TO IGNORE OUR SINS.

Cf. 1 Cor. 11:27-32. *Thomas a Kempis: "Do not think that thou hast made any progress, unless thou esteem thyself inferior to all."*  
What does that mean tonight? A person is truly blind who can come into the presence of the Lord and not be conscious of his sin.

Dr. Hendricks -- and hymns in his family devotional time. Learn a hymn (or at least the words) like John Monsell's hymn:

My sins, my sins, my Saviour!  
They take such hold on me,  
I am not able to look up,  
Save only Christ to Thee;  
In Thee is all forgiveness,  
In Thee abundant grace,  
My shadow and my sunshine  
The brightness of Thy face.

My sins, my sins, my Saviour!  
How sad on Thee they fall;  
Seen through Thy gentle patience,  
I tenfold feel them all;  
I know they are forgiven,  
But still, their pain to me  
Is all the grief and anguish  
They laid, my Lord, on Thee.

My sins, my sins, my Saviour!  
Their guilt I never knew  
Till with Thee in the desert  
I near Thy passion drew;  
Till with Thee in the garden  
I heard Thy pleading prayer,

And saw the sweat-drops bloody  
That told Thy sorrow there.

Therefore my songs, my Saviour,  
E'en in this time of woe,  
Shall tell of all Thy goodness  
To suff'ring man below;  
Thy goodness and Thy favor,  
Whose presence from above  
Rejoice those hearts my Saviour,  
That live in Thee alone. Amen.

Concl: As we come to the Lord's Table tonight, let our  
thoughts be turned to the Lord and to His death for  
us on the Cross, remembering these simple truths which were  
needed so greatly in Corinth and are needed so greatly and  
so continually in our lives today.