



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 25: THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Review

- What is the Lord's Supper?
- What does our Lord give us, together with His body and blood?

Preparing to Receive the Lord's Supper

What preparations should we make for taking the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:28 _____

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 _____

1 Timothy 2:8-9 _____

Matthew 6:16-18 _____

Matthew 9:14-15 _____

NOTE: "Fasting and prayer and the like may have their place as an external preparation and children's exercise so that one's body may behave properly and reverently toward the body and blood of Christ. But what is given in and with the sacrament cannot be grasped and appropriated by the body. This is done by the faith of the heart which discerns and desires this treasure" (Luther's *Large Catechism*).

Those Who Should Not Receive the Supper In Our Churches

Who should not receive the Lord's Supper in our churches?

1 Corinthians 10:14-21 _____

Luke 18:9-14 _____

1 John 1:8 _____

1 Corinthians 11:24-29	_____
Matthew 5:23-24	_____
1 Corinthians 11:28	_____
Romans 16:17	_____

Announcing For Communion

It has long been a custom in the Lutheran church to *announce* for communion. Years ago, those who planned to take the Lord's Supper on Sunday would visit the pastor on Saturday for private confession (if desired) and to declare their intention to receive the Supper the next day.

Here at Redeemer, we announce for communion a little differently. We do want to know who plans to take the Lord's Supper because we do not give the Sacrament to anyone and everyone, so communicants announce their intention to commune by signing a sheet in the entryway as they come into church.

Close and Open Communion

Close communion means that we celebrate communion only with those who believe the same things that we do about the Lord's Supper and teach the same things we do in other areas of Scripture. Other churches, especially Reformed churches, have **open communion** where they invite anyone to take the Lord's Supper no matter what they believe.

Why don't we have open communion?

- It is clear that the Lord's Supper was instituted for the use of Christians who already know and believe in the Lord Jesus. Open communion suggests that anyone (even non-Christians) can take the Lord's Supper.
- Although we recognize that there are believers also in Christian churches besides our own, we cannot join in communion with those who do not confess themselves to the full truth of the Scriptures (Romans 16:17).
- Taking communion implies that you are in religious agreement with those you take communion with (See 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Open communion encourages people of different beliefs to take the Lord's Supper together as if they were in agreement.
- Third, it is clear that the Lord's Supper is not to be given to those who are unable to examine themselves.

But why don't we admit to communion at least those who claim to be Christians?

- When we join in communion with others, we are confessing that there is no false teaching that separates us. We cannot, therefore, join in communion with those who teach falsely. Even if they call themselves "Lutheran," we do not want to join with them if they have a confession that is not wholly in agreement with Scripture.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

How often is the Lord's Supper celebrated in our congregation?

Could we celebrate it more often if we wanted to?

How does our church try to help people so that they do not partake of communion to their harm?

NOTE: In 1528 Martin Luther and others drew up some advice for those officials who were going to visit some of the churches and pastors in their area of Germany. With respect to the Lord's Supper they said: "Such shall not be admitted to the Sacrament as are caught in the web of open sin, adultery, gluttony, and the like, and show no contrition. Secondly, no one shall be admitted to the sacrament unless he has previously been to the pastor who shall inquire if he rightly understands the sacrament, or is in need of further counsel. Also, it shall be taught that they alone are worthy to receive the sacrament who show true repentance and sorrow for their sins . . ."

Why should we eagerly and frequently receive the sacrament of Holy Communion?

Confirmation and the Lord's Supper

What ceremony is observed in our churches in connection with instruction in the Bible and in the Lord's Supper?

- The instruction preceding and following confirmation is commanded by the Lord
- The carefulness with regard to Lord's Supper participation is desired by our Lord
- Confirmation itself, however, is a church custom neither commanded nor forbidden by God

Study

- Review the section on the Lord's Supper in your catechism (pp. 187-197).