A Piece of the Loaf

A Biblical Model of the Assembly



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Part I. When you come together

The Last Supper. The very mentioning of this term puts images in our hearts and minds that may or may not match what actually happened in Scripture. So, what exactly happened? Let's dive into Scripture and ask that question. What we find might surprise, amaze, or even offend. But in order to be faithful to God's revelation in his Word, we really must ask, must we not?

• Chapter 1, "Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" — simply reconstructs in outline form exactly what happened that first night Jesus met with his disciples, and asks a crucial question: "If Jesus invited us to do this in remembrance of him and Paul adds that by doing this we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes, is there any good reason not to do just that?".

- explains...

1. "Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"

"Do this in remembrance of me." For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

--From 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"Do this in remembrance of me."

What did Jesus want us to do in remembrance of him? In order to really understand this, we must first look at exactly what Jesus and the disciples did that last supper. Then we need to ask, "What did the early disciples undersand Jesus to mean?"

The following outline describes what happened, and was produced simply by harmonizing what all of the Gospels and 1 Corinthians say about the Last Supper. After briefly observing what happened, according to all the gospel writers and Paul, we will ask, "What did they understand Jesus to mean when he asked us to do this in remembrance of him?" and "What are the implications of this for us?"

1.1. A harmony of the Last Supper

- Start of the meal (Mk 14:17; Matt 26:20; Luke 22:14)
 - Jesus predicts his betrayal (Mk 14:18; Matt 26:21)
 - Jesus says, "I have earnestly desired to eat this meal with you..." (Luke 22:14)
 - "Fruit of the Vine" shared: "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the Kingdom of God comes" (Luke 22:17-18)
- During the meal (Mk 14:22-24; Matt 26:26; 1Cor 11:23)
 - Jesus washes disciples' feet (John 13:1-17).
 - Bread broken; "This is my body which is broken for you" (Mk 14:22-24; Matt 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-24); Jesus says: "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11:23-24)
- After the meal:
 - "Fruit of the Vine" shared AGAIN."The cup that is poured out is the new covenant in my blood" (Matt 14:24-25; Mk 26:27-28; Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:24)
 - "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11:23-24)
- Next: Jesus leads a time of teaching and prayer:
 - Jesus predicts his betrayal again! (Luke 22:21-38, Jn 13:18-30)
 - Disciples argue about who is greater (Luke 22:21-38)

- Jesus predicts Peter's denial (Luke 22:21-38, John 13:31-38)
- Vine/branches discourse (John 15 1-17)
- The World's hatred / promise of the Holy Spirit (John 15:18-16:18)
- Jesus tells about how he reveals the Father; overcomes the world (John 16:19-33)
- High priestly prayer (John 17)
- Jesus tells them to get money bag, traveling bag, cloak, swords (Luke 22:21-38)
- Conclusion of meeting:
 - Sang a hymn (Mk 14:26; Matt 26:30)
 - Depart for Mount of Olives (the mountain of the Holy Spirit—where olives are grown to be crushed.)