



The Sacrament of Hospitality (Luke 22:14-20) Welcome to the Table pt. 5 Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at the Last Supper. As both an ordinance and a sacrament, the Lord's Supper (Communion) looks back with gratitude at Christ's suffering in the past, opens us to experience the benefits of Christ's work in the present, and anticipates the fulfillment of God's promises in the future.

OPENING

- When did you first receive Communion? What do you remember about the experience?

DIGGING DEEPER

- At the Last Supper in Luke 22:19-20, Jesus says that the bread "is" his body and that the cup "is" his blood (also read Matthew 26:26-28 and Mark 14:22-24). Churches often disagree over what the word "is" means. In general, Jesus' words are interpreted in one of the following four ways:
 - Jesus' body and blood are symbolized by the bread and cup: This is a common view in Baptist and nondenominational churches.*
 - Jesus body and blood are spiritually present in the bread and the cup. This is the view of many Reformed and Presbyterian churches.*
 - Jesus' body and blood are truly but not physically present in the bread and the cup. This is the view associated with Anglican and Lutheran churches.*
 - Jesus body and blood are literally and physically present in the bread and the cup. This is the view of the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.¹*Think of these four views as overlapping with each other along a continuum, with the symbolism one end and literalism at the other end. Discuss these views as a group.
- Pastor Tim talked about different words used in the Bible to describe the practice Jesus established: Look up the verses for these words: 1 Corinthians 11:20-21 for

¹To study this further, see Paul Engle (editor), *Understanding Four Views on the Lord's Supper* (Zondervan, 2007).



“the Lord’s Supper,” 1 Corinthians 10:16 for “Communion,”² and 1 Corinthians 11:24 for “Eucharist.”³ What do you learn from these verses?

- According to Pastor Tim, the Lord’s Supper is both an ordinance and a sacrament. Neither of these words appear in the Bible because they come from Latin words, and the Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. The word “ordinance” focuses on the fact that Jesus *commands* Christians to practice the Lord’s Supper. How does 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 focus on the “command” part of the Lord’s Supper?
- The word “sacrament” refers to a visible sign of an invisible spiritual grace. When a person participates in a sacrament with faith in Jesus, they experience God’s grace by faith through these visible signs. How does 1 Corinthians 11:16 focus on this aspect of the Lord’s Supper?
- What warning does the Bible give about taking Communion in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29? According to 1 Corinthians 11:18-22, what were the Corinthian Christians doing during the Lord’s Supper that led to this warning?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- How can you better prepare for Communion?
- Where do you need God to nourish and strengthen your faith? Next time you celebrate Communion, ask God to strengthen your faith in this area.

PRAYER REQUESTS

²The *New International Version* Bible translation that Pastor Tim uses translates this word “participation,” but the *King James Version* uses the word “communion.” The Greek word is *koinonia*, which means “sharing, participation, communion, fellowship.”

³The verb translated “gave thanks” in this verse is the Greek word *eucharisteo*, which is where the word “eucharist” comes from.