

- To act in a spirit of selfish disregard for the needs of a brother was to **despise the church of God**, composed not of lifeless stones but of living people who could be grievously hurt.
- **“The early Church was the one place in all the ancient world where the barriers which divided the world were down.”**
- A Church where social and class distinctions exist is no true Church at all.

A real Church is a body of men and women united to each other because all are united to Christ.

***23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;***

- Paul was given a revelation of the Lord's Table.
- In the Lord's Table are found all the great truths connected with **the one body that were especially given to Paul to make known.**
- The Lord's Table, besides being the memorial of Christ and of His death, is now bound up with the body of Christ:

*<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

The standing sign of its unity and public witness of its communion.

“The verbs ‘received’ and ‘passed on, delivered’ are technical terms from Paul's Jewish heritage for the transmission of religious instruction.” Constable

The word **betrayed** is a continuous action verb. The betrayal was in progress as the Lord's Supper was instituted.

*<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in **the night in which He was betrayed** took bread;*

**This fact tells us three things about Christ's death.**

1. First, it tells us **the kind of men for whom He died**. He died, not merely for weak men, but also for those who were His enemies (Romans 5:10).
2. Second, it shows **the kind of salvation He brings**. It is a salvation by grace, not a salvation of human merit.
3. Third, it shows **the kind of love that His death demonstrates**. He gave Himself for men in the face of one who betrayed Him.

McCalley

*<sup>24</sup> and when **He had given thanks**, He broke it and said, "**This is My body**, which is **for you**; do this in remembrance of Me."*

*eucharisteo, "to give thanks,"* accounts for the fact that another name for the Lord's Supper is the **Eucharist**.

Jesus invited his disciples to take the **bread that represented His body**.

He gave them a share in His body and invited them to participate in the meaning and benefits of His death.

**There have been various interpretations of what Jesus meant when He said, "*This is my body.*"**

- 1. Roman Catholics** take it as a literal statement meaning the bread really becomes the body of Christ and the contents of the cup become the blood of Christ.
- 2. Christ** is "really" present, though not physically but spiritually present, in this **Lutheran view**.
- 3. Spiritual** presence of Christ is in the elements. God ministers grace to the communicant in a concrete way through participation. **Presbyterians & Calvinists** Constable

## **The fourth view is the memorial view.**

Advocates believe that when Jesus said, "*This is my body*," he meant, "*This represents my body*."

- They understand His statement as completely metaphorical.
- They view the elements as pictures or emblems of the body and blood of Christ.
- This view does not see Christ present in any special sense in the elements.

Today most of the churches from the Anabaptist branch of Protestantism (i.e., Baptists, Methodists, independent Bible churches, et al.) follow this interpretation.

“The identification of the bread with the body is **Semitic** imagery in its heightened form. As in all such identifications, he means **‘this signifies/represents my body.’**” Constable

(Semitic definition is - of, relating to, or constituting a subfamily of the Afro-Asiatic language family that includes Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, and Amharic.)

Such a view (Catholic transubstantiation) could only have arisen in the church at a much later stage when Greek modes of thinking had rather thoroughly replaced Semitic ones.



*<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,  
"This is My body, which is **for you**; do this in remembrance  
of Me."*

**The words *for you* are important.**

The preposition *for* (*huper*) means *on behalf of* and points to the substitutionary nature of Jesus' death.

He was there in our place bearing the guilt and penalty of sin that was rightly ours.

*<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; **do this** in **remembrance of Me.**”*

*25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; **do this**, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**”*

**Think of this:**

The memory is for the Lord. It is not for us; it is for the Lord. He says, “**this do to remember me.**”

The Lord's supper then is to remind us of Christ, of His death; not of our sins but of our sins put away and ourselves loved.

**No mystery** surrounds this meal such as men relish to bring into it.

All is simplicity.

It is the simple, but touching, memorial of the death of Christ.

The bread speaks of His body — Himself.

The cup speaks of His blood — His work.

This gives the Lord's Table its distinctive character:

- it is a Supper of **remembrance**,
- **not** a celebration of something existing at the moment,
- but a remembrance of something in the past.

*“...do this in remembrance of Me.*

*<sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ ”*

*do this*

Present tense, involving repeated and continuous action,

Imperative mood, showing command,

Active voice. We are to do the action

**What are we to do?**

**Remember Him and what He did**

# Remembering

It includes realizing what the event remembered involved.

It is a memorial of the salvation that He accomplished by His death and resurrection.

The Lord's Table **is unique** in that it is a call to look away from ourselves and to fix our eyes on the person and work of Christ.

It is only as we get into the thoughts of His love that we have the Person before us.

# Remembering

The Lord has His own way of creating affections of a body of believers.

There is nothing in heaven or earth like the Lord's Table.

When we come together the Lord would draw the saints into the seclusion of the Lord's Table that we may think about it once again together.

The Lord Jesus went into death in order that we might be secured for all that is the pleasure and delight of Divine Love.

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

The Lord’s Table is never to be set aside **until He comes again.**

- To proclaim the Lord’s death does not merely mean to proclaim the fact of His death.
  - To proclaim His death is to proclaim the significance of His death in the sense that it was a substitutionary death for sinners.
- The Lord’s Table is also a proclamation of the gospel.
  - We show forth His death until the **rejected Lord shall return,** to establish new bonds of association.