

4. To Maintain Fellowship

Celebrating the Lord's Supper is an intimate time of remembrance. It is like putting flowers on the grave of a loved one. It brings out warm loving feelings. But how can we have feelings of love towards Jesus if we are not on speaking terms with him? The believer is to examine his daily fellowship with Jesus (1John 1:7-9).

We are to examine our friendship with Jesus. *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself"* (1Corinthians 11:28-29).

Note that it says a man is to examine himself, not his neighbour or any one else. It is personal between each of us and Jesus. Are you walking everyday with Jesus? If you are, you will want to celebrate the remembrance of him and his substitutional death on the cross.

However, if there is some unconfessed sin in your life, you may not feel like partaking of the Lord's Supper. To correct this, *"confess your sins to Jesus"* (1John 1:9). Tell him you are sorry for your sins and experience afresh his forgiveness. Then nothing will stand between you and Jesus and the blessing of his love.

If you are a non-Christian, or unbeliever, then you will have little interest or desire to celebrate the Lord's Supper, because it does not mean anything to you. When you accept the death of Jesus for your sins, you will then appreciate who he is and what he has done. The death of Christ will mean so much to you.

Does this describe you? Are you without Christ? This can change. Why not come to him

today and be saved.

Ken Phillips tells of a tragedy at the Grand Canyon. A father was playing around in front of his family. He made like he was falling over the edge. His intentions was to jump over the edge and land on a ledge just below. He missed and fell 600 feet to his death. (Grand Canyon Rescue... Readers Digest July 2000).

If you are without Christ, you are standing on the brink of eternity gambling with your soul. And where you will land is a place called hell. You will plunge to your eternal death. Please don't gamble with your soul. Don't guess; take the step of faith and trust Christ to be your Saviour and Lord. Receive him into your life today.

Jesus said, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me"* (Revelation 3:29).

Please contact us for further information.

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- John 8:36 ASSOCIATION

*Lest We
Forget*



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Lest We Forget

1Corinthians 11: 23-26

In Australia on April 25 each year they celebrate Anzac Day, when they remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. In appreciation for those who gave their life for the freedom of Australia, they have a special 'Remembrance Day' — Lest we Forget!

For Christians, the Lord's Supper is a type of Christian Anzac, when we celebrate the day Jesus Christ gave his life to save us. When he established the 'New Covenant in his blood', he gave us a ceremony by which we can remember him, and said, "*This do in remembrance of me.*" (Luke 22:19, 1Corinthians 11: 23-26). As Christians we celebrate the Lord's Supper...

'Lest We Forget'!

As Charles Spurgeon a Baptist pastor wrote in 1850: "Jesus said, '*Do this in remembrance of me*'. It seems that Christians may forget Christ! There could be no need for this loving exhortation, if there were not a fearful supposition that our memories might prove treacherous.

"It appears almost impossible that those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and loved with an everlasting love by the eternal Son of God, should forget that gracious Saviour. But, startling evidence is too apparent to the eye, to allow us to deny the crime. Forget him who never forgot us! Forget him who poured his blood forth for our sins! Forget him who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us. He whom we

should make the abiding tenant of our memories is like a visitor. The cross, where you would think that memory would linger, is often desecrated by the busy feet of forgetfulness. Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus?

"Some other person steals away your heart, and you are unmindful of the Lord upon whom your affection ought to be set.

"It is the incessant turmoil of the world and the constant attraction of earthly things, which takes away the soul from devotion to Christ. While memory so often preserves a poisonous thought, it suffers the love of Jesus to wither. Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved, and, whatever else we let slip, let us hold fast to him." - **Charles Spurgeon**

In order to keep the memory of Jesus alive in our minds we must understand more about his work on the cross which is the basis of our salvation. It was provided through the death of Christ, which we celebrate in the Lord's Supper.

So what is the Basic Meaning and Purpose of the Lord's Supper?

1. To Be a Memorial of Christ

The basic meaning of the Supper is expressed in the words: "*This do in remembrance of me.*" It is the only reason given in Scripture for observing the Supper. The Scripture says nothing about a sacrament or the conferring of grace or the forgiveness of sins through the observance of Holy Communion.

There are various ways of remembering Christ, or of remembering any other person or thing. People often go through an old file or trunk and

see something that vividly restores the memory of some past experience. A photograph of an absent or departed loved one serves the same purpose.

There is nothing mysterious, magical, or supernatural about such memorials and neither is there about the Lord's Supper. The only thing supernatural about it is the Person who is to be remembered.

2. To Proclaim the Lord's Death

The Supper is not only a memorial of Christ personally, but a memorial of his death for our sins. There is nothing more important in the preaching of the gospel of Christ than the fact of his redeeming death.

And Paul says, "*As often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you show (or declare) the Lord's death until he comes*" (1Corinthians 11: 26).

It is self-evident that his death is central in the observance, as witnessed by the symbols of his broken body and poured out blood.

Christ gave himself, his life, his body in our place on the cross (1Peter 2:24, Romans 5:8). He shed his life blood to atone for our sins (Hebrews 2:17, Romans 3:25).

3. To Remember the Lord's Return

This fact is seen in the words, "till he come" (1Corinthians 11: 26). Christ will soon return to take us to Heaven. In the meantime, we drink of the cup to remember him until he comes. When we are with Christ in heaven, there will be no need of a memorial.