

## *Issues Concerning the Lord’s Supper*

### **The Meal Issue**

*John Isaac Edwards*

**W**e are being told by some today that the Lord’s supper is a memorial within a common meal as Christians fellowship together. Take a look at what some are saying:

The Lord’s supper “was observed in conjunction with a fellowship meal. That is, a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food. From its very inception, therefore, the Lord’s supper was an integral part of a real meal...Whatever actual form it took, it was a memorial within a meal” (*Radical Restoration*, F. Lagard Smith).

“...to isolate the bread and the wine of the Lord’s supper from a meal is certainly unnatural. All the evidence points to the integral connection of the Lord’s supper with a meal... The Lord’s supper was embedded in a common meal” (*The Lord’s Supper, A Study of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*, Jon Zens).

“...the first-century church enjoyed the Lord’s supper as a banquet...the Lord’s supper took place in the course of a communal meal. All brought what food they could and it was shared together...Communion was not simply a token meal as with us, but an actual meal. Moreover it seems clear that it was a meal to which each of the participants brought food” (*The Lord’s Supper: Feast or Famine?*, Steve Atkerson).

“Everyone brings food to share with everyone else. When the weather is nice, all the food is placed on a long folding table outside. A chest full of ice sits beside the drink table. Kids run wildly around. They are having so much fun that they must be rounded up by parents and encouraged to eat. After a prayer of thanksgiving is offered, people line up, talking and laughing as they load their plates with food. In the middle of all the food sits a single loaf of bread next to a large container of the fruit of the vine. Each believer partakes of the bread and juice/wine while going through the serving line...The atmosphere is not unlike that of a wedding banquet. It is a great time of fellowship, encouragement, edification, friendship, caring, catching-up, praying, exhorting, and maturing. The reason for the event? In case you did not recognize it, this is the Lord’s supper, New Testament style!” (*Ibid*).

***Where’s the Scripture?*** Notice what is missing in the above statements? Scripture! Where is the book, chapter, and verse that shows the Lord’s supper “was observed in conjunction with a normal, ordinary meal with the usual variety of food”? Does anyone have a Scripture for this?

***Misuse of the Passover.*** The Passover was a Jewish feast eaten in memory of the Lord “pass-

ing over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians” (Exodus 12:27). It was not a common, ordinary meal. It consisted of roasted lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, fruit of the vine and was eaten once a year (Exodus 12; Matthew 26:29). When Jesus instituted the Lord’s supper, He only took bread and fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:26-28). Nothing else was said to be part of the Lord’s supper.

*The Scriptures Condemn Making the Lord’s Supper a Common Meal.* Paul wrote the Corinthians, who were feasting with the Lord’s supper, “What? have ye not houses to

eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not” (1 Corinthians 11:22). Further he said, “And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation...” (1 Corinthians 11:34). If a common meal and the Lord’s supper go together, the Lord failed to inform Paul of such!

If “the Lord’s supper was embedded in a common meal”, then we could not Scripturally observe the Lord’s supper without a meal “with the usual variety of food.” If not, why not?

## The Sin-Remitting Issue

*John Isaac Edwards*

**A**ccording to *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, “If a person approached it [the Lord’s supper], in good faith, forgetting that he was in mortal sin...with attrition, the sacrament would restore him to grace...arousing love of God, it does directly remit venial sins for which one is sorry” (*Vol. 5, p. 607*). Does anyone have a passage of Scripture that affirms such?

John 6:53-56 is often misapplied to the Lord’s supper, among those who raise this issue. This text is not discussing the Lord’s

supper, but rather has reference to the Lord’s word. “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). “...thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

Eating the bread and drinking the cup does not remit sins, but is in remembrance of the One “which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) and whose blood was “shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

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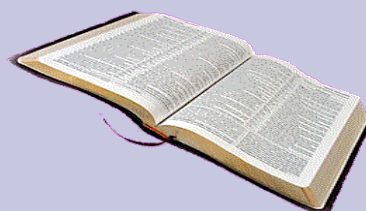
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Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



*The Bible  
Is Our  
Only Guide!*