



## The Lord's Supper as a Means of Grace

2<sup>nd</sup> in "The Lord's Supper" Series

1 Corinthians 10:16, Ephesians 1:3 & 3:16-21

May 1, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this sermon we learn how the Lord's Supper is a means of grace through which God ministers to his people.

### The Text:

**1 Corinthians 10:16:** <sup>16</sup> *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?*

**Ephesians 1:3:** <sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

**Ephesians 3:16-21:** <sup>16</sup> *that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,* <sup>17</sup> *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,* <sup>18</sup> *may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,* <sup>19</sup> *and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.* <sup>20</sup> *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,* <sup>21</sup> *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

1. Christians hold three different understandings of how Jesus is present in the Lord's Supper.

*a) Jesus is **bodily** present in the Lord's Supper (God does something to the elements - **miracle**).*

*b) Jesus is **spiritually** present in the Lord's Supper (God does something to us - **ministry**).*

*c) Jesus is **normally** present in the Lord's Supper (We do something to ourselves - **memorial**).*

2. The Bible describes the Lord's Supper as a Spirit-empowered nourishment of the Christian.

**EFCA Statement of Faith #7:** *The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.*

**Application:** So how should the Lord's Supper minister to God's people at Hope Church?

- (1) *How should the Lord's Supper be practiced?*
- (2) *Who can participate in the Lord's Supper?*

### Response

Father, let us be a church that receives all the means of grace you have given us to nourish our souls.

## Sunday Text Questions

1 Corinthians 10:16, Ephesians 1:3 & 3:16-21

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- 1) Starter Question: What do you do, think, or pray when you participate in the Lord's Supper?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does it mean to say that the bread and the cup of the Lord's Supper is a means of "participation in" Christ (1 Cor 10:16)?
- 4) How does Eph 3:16-21 explain how the Holy Spirit ministers to the Christian's inner being/soul?
- 5) How might it be hard for modern Americans in a world dominated by naturalism and science to understand the ways God might work through the Holy Spirit?
- 6) What does it mean to say that the Lord's Supper is a "means of grace" through which God minister to his people?
- 7) How does the Lord's Supper minister to the Christian?
- 8) How should a Christian treat the Lord's Supper before they partake and even during the ceremony?
- 9) How should the Lord's Supper direct us to facilitate real "communion" with our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- 10) How has this short series helped you think about the Lord's Supper?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the ministry of the Spirit in the Christian: Joel 2:28-29 (Mon); John 16:12-15 (Tues); Ephesians 2:19-22 (Wed); Ephesians 4:1-5 (Thurs); John 15:26 (Fri).