

IMPRINT CHURCH

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Understanding why and how we celebrate the Lord's Supper at Imprint.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER / COMMUNION?

The Lord's Supper is found in Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and 1 Corinthians 11:23–29.

Jesus established the Lord's Supper during the Jewish Passover Feast. The Passover remembered and celebrated Israel's deliverance from slavery to Egypt (Ex 12). In God's deliverance he judged Egypt with ten plagues, the final being the death of all firstborn. To escape this judgment, the Israelites were commanded to take the blood of a lamb and sprinkle it on their door posts. God's judgment would "pass over" these houses. The Lord's Supper is a fulfillment of this image of substitution: Christ's body was broken and blood was shed for his people.

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus broke bread and gave it to the disciples to eat. This bread represented the brokenness of his body due to beating and crucifixion (1 Cor 11:24). Jesus also gave a cup to the disciples. Wine was a fitting symbol of his blood that would be shed for them (1 Cor 11:25). Jesus' body and blood were the perfect and final sacrifice (Heb 8:8–13) that initiated a new covenant—a new relationship—between God and his redeemed people. It created a new community gathered around his table.

WHY DOES IMPRINT OFFER THE LORD'S SUPPER EACH WEEK?

We offer the Lord's Supper at most Sunday gatherings. We believe that it is more than a memorial—it is a declaration of one's continual dependence upon Christ's life and a regular reminder of his return. Jesus said to "do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19) so we remember the shed body and blood of Jesus each time we partake. In doing so, we remind ourselves of Christ's perfect and sufficient sacrifice for our sin, our newness in him, and our new family.

WHO CAN PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Communion is for those who trust in Jesus. When we partake, we are encouraged to examine ourselves (1 Cor 11:28–29). We should take inventory of our lives and relationships and—where needed—confess our sins and ask forgiveness.

OTHER QUESTIONS

- *Do I have to be baptized to partake?*

No. Salvation is by faith, but baptism is a public proclamation of salvation and an act of obedience to Christ. Baptism is not required for salvation, but we encourage people to be baptized as soon as they receive Christ as their Savior and then celebrate communion with great joy.

- *Do I have to be a member of the church to partake?*

No. We do not believe that scripture teaches formal membership in local congregations. Each church must decide how they will administer the Lord's Supper. At Imprint Church we open the Lord's Supper to anyone who is seeking Jesus and responding on their own. All are welcome to take it.

- *Does the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of the Lord?*

No. The Bible teaches that this is a symbol of greater realities. The disciples would have recognized that Jesus' reference to the bread and the cup as his body and blood was symbolic. The living Jesus stood before them.

- *Does partaking in the Lord's Supper wash away my sins?*

No. It is an outward symbol of what Christ has done for all who believe in him.

If you have other questions, please email one of the Lead Pastors:

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