

WHO SHOULD BE SERVED THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus said,

III Nephi 8:32 And when the multitude had eaten and were filled, he said unto the disciples, Behold, there shall one be ordained among you, and to him will I give power that he shall break bread, and bless it, **and give it unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name.**

33 And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread, and blessed it, and gave it unto you.

34 And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shewn unto you.

35 And it shall be a testimony unto the Father, that ye do always remember me.

36 And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.

37 And it came to pass that when he had said these words, he commanded his disciples that they should take of the wine of the cup, and drink of it, and that they should also give unto the multitude, that they might drink of it.

"38 And it came to pass that they did so, and did drink of it, and were filled; and they gave unto the multitude, and they did drink, and they were filled.

39 And when the disciples had done this, Jesus said unto them, Blessed are ye for this thing which ye have done, for this is fulfilling my commandments, and this doth witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you.

40 **And this shall ye always do unto those who repent and are baptized in my name;** and ye shall do it in remembrance of my blood, which I have shed for you, that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me.

41 And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.

42 **And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things.**

43 **And if ye shall always do these things, blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock.**

44 **But whoso among you shall do more or less than these, are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation;**

45 And when the rain descends, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon them, they shall fall, and the gates of hell are already open to receive them:

46 Therefore blessed are ye if ye shall keep my commandments, which the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you."

The Lord's commandment then is that the bread and wine should be served to all those who are a part of His church, and that is defined as those who repent and are baptized into the covenant. This is further emphasized in Doctrine and Covenants 3:15b-16b.

“[Sec 3:15b] yea, and I will also bring to light my gospel, which was ministered unto them, and, behold, they shall not deny that which you have received, but they shall build it up, and shall bring to light the true points of my doctrine; yea, and the only doctrine which is in me;

[Sec 3:15c] and this I do, that I may establish my gospel, that there may not be so much contention;

[Sec 3:15d] yea, Satan doth stir up the hearts of the people to contention, concerning the points of my doctrine; and in these things they do err, for they do wrest the Scriptures, and do not understand them;

[Sec 3:15e] therefore, I will unfold unto them this great mystery; for, behold, I will gather them as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if they will not harden their hearts; yea, if they will come, they may, and partake of the waters of life freely.

[Sec 3:16a] Behold, this is my doctrine: Whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church;“

[Sec 3:16b] whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me; therefore, he is not of my church.”

Further instruction is given in D&C 17:22-23:

“[Sec 17:22a] **It is expedient that the church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus;**

[Sec 17:22b] and the elder or priest shall administer it; and after this manner shall he administer it:”

[Sec 17:22c] He shall kneel with the church and call upon the Father in solemn prayer, saying,[Sec 17:22d] O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and **witness unto thee, O God, the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him and keep his commandments which he has given them,** that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.

[Sec 17:23a] The manner of administering the wine: He shall take the cup also, and say:

[Sec 17:23b] O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this wine to the souls of all those who drink of it, that they may do it in remembrance of the blood of thy Son which was shed for them, that they may witness unto thee, O God, the eternal Father, that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them. Amen”

This tells us that the church needs to have the opportunity to partake of the bread and wine often, and explains that by partaking of them, we are saying to God

that we are **willing to remember the Lord and to keep the covenant we have made with Him**, (Mosiah 9:39-41; Mosiah 3:5-16; D&C 20; Genesis 9:21-23) so that we can have the Holy Spirit to be with us always. It is this willingness, at the time of partaking, that allows the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and continually brings us to repentance, It does not mean that we do not have sin in our lives. If being perfect was the condition for partaking of the communion, not one of us would be able to partake! Having sin in our life does not make us unworthy to partake of the communion, that is exactly the reason we need to partake of the communion! The thing that makes us unworthy is not being willing to repent and make the covenant in the first place, or not being willing to remember the covenant and once we have made it,

This is what Jesus is referring to in his further instruction to the priesthood in III Nephi 8:58-62:

“58 And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he turned his eyes again upon the disciples whom he had chosen, and said unto them,
59 Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you another commandment, and then I must go unto my Father, that I may fulfill other commandments which he hath given me.

60 And now behold, this is the commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall not suffer any one knowingly, to partake of my flesh and blood unworthily, when ye shall minister it, for whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul;

61 Therefore if ye know that a man is unworthy to eat and drink of my flesh and blood, ye shall forbid him; nevertheless ye shall not cast him out from among you, but ye shall minister unto him, and shall pray for him unto the Father, in my name,

62 And if it so be that he repenteth, and is baptized in my name, then shall ye receive him, and shall minister unto him of my flesh and blood;”

Those who have not repented and made the covenant would be making themselves responsible for a covenant they have not made, and cannot keep, because they do not have the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. It is only by the power of that Spirit in us that we can be righteous and keep the commandments, and that is why it is so important that we have the Holy Spirit with us always. So it is these unbaptized people that the Lord is warning against serving the sacrament to, not baptized members. If they repent and are baptized, the priesthood SHALL minister unto them the sacrament.

This does not imply that baptized members cannot be unworthy of taking the Sacrament. Mormon 4:93-95 admonishes us:

“93 Doubt not, but be believing, and begin as in times of old, and come unto the Lord with all your heart, and **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling before him.**”

“94 Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness; ask not, that ye may consume it on your lusts, but ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye will yield to no temptation, but that ye will serve the true and living God.

95 See that ye are not baptized unworthily; see that ye partake not of the sacrament of Christ unworthily; but see that ye do all things in worthiness, and do it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God: and if ye do this, and endure to the end, ye will in no wise be cast out.”

This is a personal response between you and God. Again, having sin in our life does not make us unworthy, but not being willing, or not having a desire, to overcome that sin is what makes us unworthy. That is why Paul admonishes us in I Corinthians 11:27-32:

“27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

As members of the covenant, WE have the responsibility to examine ourselves, and see what are willingness is to live the covenant we have made, No man knows another man's heart, and we are not made the judge over others, but of ourselves in our response to the covenant. And God is the one to chasten or reward according to our true response.

And if there are those members who are found in sin, we are given this instruction in D&C 17:24:

“Any member of the church of Christ transgressing, or being overtaken in a fault, shall be dealt with as the Scriptures direct.”

A discussion of the way to deal with transgression in the church is beyond the scope of this discussion, but what the Scriptures seems to clearly say is that denying members the communion is not the way to deal with it. Let us be faithful in following the Lord's direction in all things.