

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The purpose of this outline is to provide you, the minister, with some basic information and understanding concerning the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is the hope that with this foundation you will be able to share this information and understanding with other members of the church, so they too will gain an understanding and appreciation of the importance of this ordinance.

When was the first recorded serving of the Lord's Supper?

- ◆ And Melchizedek, king of Salem, **brought forth bread and wine; and he break bread and blest it; and he blest the wine, he being the priest of the most high God**, And he gave to Abram, and he blessed him, and said, Blessed Abram, thou art a man of the most high God, possessor of heaven and of earth. ***Genesis 14:17,18 I.V.***

Sacrament Instituted by Jesus Christ to His own disciples

- ◆ He takes bread and wine — common elements of our human existence — and under His blessing makes them food divine. ***Arthur Oakman, O Worship the King, pg.57, 1952***

Than Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man . . . And drink of his blood, ye have no life in you — ***John 6:53; 3 Nephi 9:44***

In Remembrance of Me

- ◆ And Jesus took bread and brake it, and blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is in remembrance of my body which I gave a ransom for you**. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, **Drink ye all of it. For this is in remembrance of my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for as many as shall believe on my name, for the remission of sins. ***Matthew 26:22-24***

Behold, this is for you to do in remembrance of My body; for as oft as ye do this ye will remember this hour that I was with you...This is in remembrance of my blood which is shed for many, and the new testament which I give unto you; for of me ye shall bear record unto all the world. And as oft as ye do this ordinance, ye will remember me in this hour that I was with you and drank with you of this cup, even the last time in My ministry — ***Mark 14:21,23,24***

Remembrance Brings Spirit

- ◆ And it shall be a testimony unto the Father that ye do always remember Me; And **if ye do always remember Me, ye shall have My Spirit to be with you**. ***3 Nephi 8:35-36***

Specific Council given to the Church concerning the Sacrament

- ◆ The elders and priests are to have sufficient time to expound all things concerning the church of Christ to their understanding, previous to their partaking of the sacrament, and being confirmed by the laying on of the hands of the elders; so that all things may be done in order. And the members shall manifest before the church, and also before the elders, by a godly walk and conversation that they are worthy of it . . . **DC17:18**

It is **expedient** that the church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus — **DC 17:22a**

Nevertheless, ye are commanded never to cast anyone out from your public meetings, which are held before the world. Ye are also commanded **not to cast anyone, who belongeth to the church**, out of your sacrament meetings; nevertheless, if any have trespassed, let him not partake until he makes reconciliation. And again I say unto you, Ye shall **not cast anyone out** of your sacrament meetings, who is earnestly seeking the kingdom: I speak this concerning those who are not of the church. **DC 46:1c-2**

Authority given by Jesus Christ to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to His Church

- ◆ Behold, there shall be one ordained among you, And to to him will I give power that he shall brake bread and bless it and give it unto the people of My church, unto all they which shall believe and be baptized in My name. **3 Nephi 8:32**

Why the Sacrament instituted?

- ◆ 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. 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 you may witness unto the Father that ye always remember Me; And if ye do always remember Me, ye shall have My Spirit to be with you. **3 Nephi 8:39-41**

Unworthiness to Partake

- ◆ Ye shall not suffer anyone 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. **3 Nephi 8:60**

Unbaptized are unworthy to partake of the emblems

- ◆ 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.

He that repenteth not, he shall not be numbered among My people

Do not cast them out...Continue to minister to them... **3 Nephi 8:62, 63-66**

Close communion known in the first century churches

- ◆ “Let no one eat of those things that is not initiated; but those only who have been baptized into the death of the Lord. But if any one that is not initiated conceal himself, and partake of the same, he eats eternal judgment; because, being not of the faith of Christ, he has partaken of such things as it is not lawful for him to partake of, to his own punishment. But if anyone is a partaker through ignorance, instruct him quickly, and initiate him.” **The Teachings of the Twelve Apostles, by Philip Schaff**

- ◆ And this food is called among us the Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoyed. **Justin Martyr, Anti-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1, pages 340-341**

Violation of close communion among the 1st breakdowns in Christ’s Church following the golden age, as well as New Testament churches.

- ◆ Yea, there were churches which professed to know the Christ and yet did deny the more part of His gospel, Insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and **did administer that which was sacred unto him it had been forbidden because of unworthiness; 4 Nephi 1:29**

Wherefore whosoever shall eat of this bread, and drink this cup of Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. —**1 Corinthians 11:27-30**

- ◆ “There are two phases of this statement which needs elucidation. First, personal worthiness before one may partake of the Communion is indicated; And, second, one should have a personal conviction and knowledge that the body with whom he communes is in fact and deed the true body of Christ.

If there are doubts in either case, the communicant has not properly discerned the body of Christ, and should not participate in the Communion whether he is a baptized member or not.” **The Sacrament of Communion, F. Edward Butterworth.**

Certain Unrepentant sins among the Body of Christ need to be reconciled before partaking of the Sacrament

- ◆ Those that have ought against a sister or brother need to be first reconciled — **Matthew 5:24-26**

Whenever you know that a brother or sister has ought against you, go and be reconciled with them.—**Matt. 18:15-17; Luke 17:3**

Unrepentant sins often requires righteous judgment by the church in order to protect the body of Christ— **D&C 17:24; 42:6,7,20-23; Moroni 6:6-8; Mosiah 11:136-146**

Directions given for Serving the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

- ◆ Elder to take the lead of all meetings [8f] Administer bread and wine [8b] The priest’s duty is to preach, teach, expound, and baptize, and administer the sacrament . . . [10a-c] [Priest] . . . when there is an elder present is only to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and visit the house of each member . . . [10d] Neither teachers or deacons have authority to administer the sacrament [11e] **DC17**

To avoid confusion let him who presides in the sacrament meeting, and those who administer it **cause that the emblems be duly prepared upon clean vessels for the bread** and clean vessels for the wine, or the water, as may be expedient; **and the officer may** break the bread before it is blessed, and pour the wine before it is blessed; or he may, if he be so led, bless the bread before it be broken and the wine before it be poured; nevertheless both bread and wine should be uncovered when presented for the blessing to be asked upon it. It is expedient that the bread and wine should be administered in the early part of the meeting, before weariness and confusion ensue. **DC119:5c-f**

Duties & Responsibilities of the Priest clarified

- ◆ The Priests duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort and baptize, and administer the Sacrament, and visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and also to attend to all family duties; and ordain other Priests, Teachers and Deacons, and take the lead in meetings; **but none of these offices is he to do when there is an Elder present, but in all cases is to assist the Elder.** *The Evening and the Morning Star, Independence, Missouri, Vol. I. June, 1832. No. 1. [D&C 17]*

The Prayers

- ◆ **The Prayer over the Bread - D&C 17:22c-d; Moroni 4**

He shall kneel with the church and call upon the Father in solemn prayer, saying,

O God, the eternal Father, we ask thee to in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake 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 hath given them. That they may always have His Spirit to be with them. Amen

◆ **The Prayer over the Wine *D&C 17:23; Moroni 5***

He (they) shall take (took) the cup also, and say (said)

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 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

Thoughts concerning the “Wine”

- ◆ Touching the kind of wine to be used in sacrament services of the church, we are of the opinion that fermented wine should not be used, but that either unfermented wine or water should be used, and so be in harmony with the spirit of the revelations. ***R&R 702 (1913) [See DC 26:1; 86:1; 119:5]***

- ◆ That it mattereth not what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to My glory. ***DC 26:1b***

Wherefore a commandment I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine, neither strong drink of your enemies; wherefore ye shall partake of none, except it be made new among you ***DC 26:1d***

For the wine or for the water ***DC 119:5c***

Common Cup or Individual Portion?

- ◆ Up until 1915 a common cup was pretty much standard practice.

On April 8, 1915 there was discussion on the floor concerning resolution No. 747 saying “that the individual sacrament service be used throughout the church, as the authorized form of service, in conformity with the laws of health as prescribed by the health officials of the United States.”

A question put to the chair (Elbert A. Smith) that was included in the adopted resolution states that approval by the church of the authorized form would not prohibit any branch from using any other form. ***General Conference Minutes, April 8, 1915***

Excess emblems – Sacramental or ordinary

- ◆ In his commentary on the Doctrine & Covenants in 1956, Apostle F. Henry Edwards who was a member of the presidency for many years wrote: "It is to be noted here that the bread and wine used in the sacrament are simply blessed for the use of those who partake of them on that occasion and with an understanding of their purpose. The bread and wine are emblems only, and are to be partaken in remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus. They become efficacious (*effective*) to our salvation if they are

partaken of worthily. Unworthy participation in so sacred an ordinance must necessarily bring its condemnation. Any of the bread or wine which is unused is merely bread and wine and has no sacramental properties. “

Joseph Smith III Statement

- ◆ “In administering the sacrament, the elders are hereby instructed to prevent the desecration of the ordinance by a waste of the bread blessed upon the occasion — A very proper way of preventing this, is, if more is prepared than is used at one passing, pass until all is used. It is urged by some, that not infrequently the bread which is left is thrown aside, when after becoming dry it is thrown out and wasted. This ought not to be. For thereby a disregard to the ordinance may be engendered in the minds of some, who otherwise would revere it.” *Saints Herald, Vol. 13, No. 8 (April 15, 1868), page 120.*

Conference Action appears to have rescinded a portion of the recommendations given by President Joseph Smith, III on the Sacrament

R&R #172 (1875) — The following resolution on sacrament was adopted: Whereas, Believing that the bread and wine used at the sacrament are simply blessed for the use of those who at the time and with an understanding of its purpose partake of it, in no way relating to its subsequent use, therefore be it Resolved, That we rescind a former resolution of General Conference making necessary the passing of the bread until all be taken.—*The Saints' Herald*, vol. 22, p. 299.

Avoid Contention

- ◆ And the Spirit saith further: Contention is unseemly; therefore cease to contend respecting the sacrament and the time of administering it; or whether it be upon the first Lord's day of every month, or upon the Lord's day of every week, if it be administered by the officers of the church with sincerity of heart and in purity of purpose, and be partaken of in remembrance of Jesus Christ and in willingness to take upon them his name by them who partake, it is acceptable to God. Let him that partaketh and him that refraineth cease to contend with his brother that each may be benefited when he eateth at the table of the Lord. **DC 119:5a, b & g**

The Statement of Communion

- ◆ It is always wise to inform non-members in attendance that we are close communionists. A statement should be read prior to the blessing of the emblems stating clearly that only members of the church, in good standing, whom have been baptized and confirmed by one having authority recognized by the Restored Church, are eligible to partake.

One Example of a Statement of Communion

We partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus Christ's death and the price that was paid, that we might find forgiveness of sin.

We invite all members of the church of Jesus Christ, restored in these latter days to partake of the emblems.

This is done in response to our particular baptismal covenant that we made to take upon us the name of Christ and keep His commandments.

We invite those who are not members of the Restored Church, who with humbleness of heart seek to serve their Lord, to unite with the Church through the baptisms of water and Spirit and, in the future, partake of the Sacrament with us.

Finally, we would call to your attention the counsel that those members who are in transgression, or those who hold grudges against a brother, are commanded to refrain from partaking until reconciliation has been made.

Let us worship together and find renewed life in our Lord Jesus Christ as we partake of the Sacrament together. (Oak Grove Restoration Branch)

The Manner of Serving

- ◆ “It is best for two to remove the linen covering the emblems, fold it carefully and lay it aside, ready for use again to cover the vessels after the emblems have been served.”
- ◆ “Those who serve the emblems should preserve order and quietness in their work, should keep abreast or in pairs and return to the altar (rostrum) at the same time.” ***Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 69.***
- ◆ And when the disciples had come with bread and wine, He took of the bread and break and blessed it; And He **gave unto the disciples and commanded that they should eat.** And when they had eaten and were filled, He commanded that they should give unto the multitude. ***3 Nephi 8:30-31; 3 Nephi 9:40-42***
- ◆ “Serving should begin at the center of the row, serving to the outer edge so the server will not be interfering with the meditations of the communicants immediately following partaking of the emblems.”
“Take a firm grip on the trays, and be careful to maintain balance when reaching. Hold tray low enough for members to partake conveniently, and serve one person at a time.”
“It is sometimes advisable to hand the glass of wine to aged or handicapped members rather than to let them fumble of the tray.”
Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 69.

Considerations for Presiding Over the Sacrament and Service

- a. Much Prayer, Fasting, & personal preparation required in order that the service permits the true meaning of the Communion to penetrate the hearts & minds of the body.
- b. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper should be the primary focus.
- c. Encourage prior preparation by both the priesthood & members.
- d. The Presiding officer is responsible that the ebb and flow of the service is smooth and that all details and aspects of the service are both uplifting and brings honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. All participating priesthood are contacted prior to the service and understand their role — and make the proper preparations.
- f. The priesthood that will officiate and serve are given specific assignments in advance of the service so that there are no distractions during the Sacrament service. Those serving the emblems in larger services should have assigned areas to serve.
- g. "The minister in charge should arrange the order of worship so that the act of receiving the emblems is a deep, rich, spiritual experience."
- h. "A pastoral talk prior to the serving of the emblems and a pastoral prayer following the receiving can blend the thoughts and minds of the people in unity.
- i. The church should always be reminded prior to the serving of those emblems of the significance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- j. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper lends itself well to the use of music: organ, piano, choral, and congregational.
- k. Special offering for the poor and needy. [It is customary for many branches to use all undesignated funds collected during the sacrament service for this purpose.] The oblation may be considered as an affirmation of faith or, perhaps more properly, as an act of dedication and deep concern for the common good.
- l. The Communion message truly should be an affirmation of faith."

Ordinances & Sacraments of the church, Yale & Brockway, page 70.

See That All Is Done in Order...

- ◆ "The communion of the Lord's Supper meets a real human need, and draws more people to the church than does any other service, it is dominated by the Spirit of Christ, and its activities are ordered by His command, This do in remembrance of Me.

It is a service in which spirituality should be greater than formality, though the service should be governed with quietness and order." **Arthur A. Oakman, O Worship the King, pg. 65.**