

Other Options?

As we have examined the scriptures for guidance about the Lord's Supper, we have learned that it is the primary reason for the Christian assembly on Sundays. Now the question is, "Why would any group of Christians come together, on Sunday, and not take the Lord's Supper? How could it be right to only take the Supper together once a month, yet meet together every Sunday? How about once a year?twice a year? That would be just men's thinking, and there has been too much of that in the Body of Christ already. You may think that the Bible does not have much to say about the frequency of the Supper, but that is no excuse for ignoring what it does say.

Review

1. Is there any guidance from the Bible as to how often, and when, the Supper should be celebrated.
Yes, there is. Eg. Acts 20:7
2. In fact the Supper is the only biblically stated purpose for the church to come together.
3. The question is not, "Why do some have the Supper every week?" It is. "Why do some neglect the Supper so often?"

Finger Lakes Church of Christ

Meets at the Chapel at George Junior Republic on Rte 38 in Freeville.

Call 708 4048 for more information.

Why Do Some People Celebrate The Lord's Supper (Communion) every week?



Why do we (Finger Lakes Church of Christ) celebrate the Lord's Supper every week?

Churches of Christ celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday, and you may be wondering why that is so.

It is something Christians do.

Let us first ask the question: Why do we take the Lord's Supper at all?

We find the answer to that question only in the Bible. Jesus commanded His followers to "Do this in remembrance of me" when He celebrated the Supper with His Apostles on the night before His crucifixion (Matthew 26:17-30). The Apostle Paul also gives instruction about the Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:17-33.

So we know it is something we are to do, based on the revealed Word of God, but how do we know when? We must find the answer to that question in the same way, right? Are there any clues to help us answer that question in the Bible? Yes, there are.

The Bible tells us so.

The Bible does not record any direct words of Jesus about when to take the Supper. When Paul gives instruction in 1 Corinthians 11, however, we find these words:

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Paul says that Jesus said, "as often as you drink it". Some would understand this to mean that it does not matter when you observe the Supper. But this statement simply emphasizes that it is something that is to be done more than once, and it is never to be done for any other reason. In the context Paul is chastising the Corinthians for falling into the habit of making it a common meal. The key verse is verse 20.

Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

He goes on to explain why he can say that to them. It is because each one of them is basically taking care of his / her own needs, instead of being mindful of the Body.

But notice that he connects the Supper with their "coming together." If the Supper only occurred once a month then Paul could not say, "when you come together." He would have to refer only to the Supper itself if it was not the same thing as the assembly. Notice in Verse 17 that Paul is starting a series of comments about their "meetings," and his first concern is the way they partake of the Supper in their meetings.

What is the Purpose of the Assembly?

Paul continues his comments about the meeting of the Body all the way through chapter 14 and then talks about the resurrection of the Body in Chapter 15. In chapter 16:1,2 he turns to the practical matter of the collection and says this:

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Why the first day of the week? Why Sunday? Paul is encouraging them to take care of this matter when they came together for their regular weekly meeting. But that is not the reason they came together. They came together to take the Lord's Supper together.

But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:6,7

Paul was making his way back to Jerusalem and was in a hurry (Acts 20:16) yet he stops at Troas and waits for seven days to speak to the disciples. The first opportunity to do so was "on the first day of the week when the disciples came together." So we learn that these disciples were doing just what we would expect them to do, and obviously Paul expected them to do. They were coming together on the first day of the week. Why did they come together? "To break bread"

Come together to "break bread"

The breaking of bread refers to the Lord's Supper. It can refer to a regular meal, but that would not make sense in this case, would it? This was a special group of people, coming together once a week for a special meeting and the main purpose of that meeting was to take the Lord's Supper. The purpose of the Christian assembly on Sundays is to "...proclaim His death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26) by partaking in the Lord's Supper together. Everything else we do on Sunday is incidental to the Lord's Supper.

We hope anyone comes to our town and wants to meet with the Christians here, he, or she, would simply have to find out where we meet and he would know that we would be there on Sunday and he would know that he would be able to partake of the Lord's Supper with us.