

Four Ways To Look At Communion
I Cor. 11: 23-30

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1. For nearly 2000 years, Christians have assembled each Lord's Day to worship God. One of the most meaningful parts of our worship is the partaking of the Lord's Supper.
2. As a nation, we are familiar with memorials. It was Jesus' idea that in eating that bread and drinking that fruit of the vine, his disciples would always remember the sacrifice he would make.
3. In the early church, the Lord's Supper played an important part in the worship. (**Acts 2: 42; 20: 7**). This simple observance is a reminder of the event that established the Christian faith -- the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. And so, this morning, I'd like for us to place a special emphasis on the Lord's Supper as we reflect together on its significance to us.

I. We Are to Look Backwards (I Cor. 11: 23-25)

- A Not all of the early Christians held the Lord's Supper in high regard.
 1. **"Do this in remembrance of me."** Human beings have a tendency to forget.
- B In partaking of the Lord's Supper, we look back to the death of Jesus Christ.
 1. This morning, we leave the world and go together to visit a cross.

II. We Are to Look Forward (I Cor. 11: 26)

- A The Lord's Supper serves as a symbol to us that our Lord is coming back.
 1. (**Phil. 3: 20**).
- B When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we declare our faith in the future.
 1. Early Christians would often say, "Maranatha" -- "Lord come quickly!"
 1. (**I Cor. 16: 22**).

III. We Are to Look Outward (I Cor. 11: 26)

- A I want us to put the emphasis on the word "proclaim".
 1. It serves as a marvelous way to teach our children. (**Ex. 13: 14**)
- B In the Lord's Supper, we also proclaim our unity with one another. (**I Cor. 10: 16-17**)
 1. The one thing that we learn in His presence is the need to get along with each other, to be united through this sacrifice.

IV. We Are to Look Inward (I Cor. 11: 27-30)

- A The Lord's Supper is a time to look inward in self-examination.
 1. This memorial meal is to be done reverently and not carelessly.
 2. What does it mean to take the Lord's Supper in "an unworthy manner"?
- B We need to check our hearts. Are we taking the Lord's Supper to keep the memory of Christ or merely out of ritual? (**Amos 5:21-22**)
- C For those of us who have been baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, the elements of the Lord's Supper take on a very special meaning.