

*The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Himself and He commanded its observance
(Mt 26:26-28; 1 Co 11:24-25)

1. The Scripture shows that the church obeyed this command
 - a) they gathered on the first day of the week (Sunday) to "break bread"
 - b) "breaking bread" is most likely a reference to the Lord's Supper
(Ac 20:7; 1 Co 10:16-17, 16:2, 11:20)
2. The earliest historical evidence confirms that the pattern of the early church was to assemble every Sunday and to celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly
 - a) The Didache 14:1 (~ 95 AD)
 - b) Justin Martyr (~100-165 AD)
 - c) a consensus of extra biblical historians

*The Lord's Supper is to be observed regularly because it serves the church

- A. as a **MEMORIAL**
 1. Jesus said: "Do this in remembrance of Me"
 - a) we eat the bread (unleavened) in memory of His broken body
 - b) we drink the cup in memory of His shed blood

(1 Cor 11:23-25)

2. we remember Jesus' death on the cross for us ... in our place
 - a) His death, His blood, made the new covenant possible
 - b) His blood was shed for the remission of our sins
(Mt 26:28; Heb 9:16; Eph 1:7)

B. as a **PROCLAMATION**

1. we proclaim our faith in the stunning efficacy of Jesus' death
 - a) that His death was indeed payment for our sins
 - b) His blood satisfied the wrath of God, the propitiation for our sins
2. we proclaim the Lord's return
 - a) we celebrate it until He comes
 - b) at His coming He will save us from the very presence of sin
(1 Cor 11:26; 1 Jn 4:10; Rev 22:3-4)

C. as an occasion for **REFLECTION**

1. we examine or judge ourselves and our relationship to the body
2. we examine our conduct, our life to see if it shows an appreciation OR a disregard for His sacrifice
 - do we live for ourselves or for Him?
 - are we righteous or unrepentant?

(1 Co 11:28-32; 2 Co 5:14-15; Gal 2:20)

*The Lord's Supper should not be taken lightly and we should carefully consider how it is to be observed

A. with **REVERENCE**

1. not in an unworthy manner

#371 **ἀναξίως** *anaxios* (adverb)
= unworthily, improperly
= in an unbecoming manner

2. mindful of the supreme price Jesus paid for our sins
3. failure to observe it reverently brings condemnation

→ we are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord

→ we eat and drink judgment to ourselves if we do not judge the body rightly

#1252 **διακρίνω** *diakrino*
= to evaluate carefully, accurately

→ for this reason some among us are weak and sick and some have died

(1 Co 11:27, 29; Heb 10:26-29)

B. in a memorial or **SYMBOLIC** sense

→ Jesus is neither more nor especially present in communion

→ the elements function as signs to help us to remember, proclaim and worship the risen Christ