

Frequency of the Lord's Supper

As to the frequency of eating the Lord's Supper, many have wrestled with this question. Since Acts 20:7 is the only reference of disciples coming together to eat the Lord's Supper, it is the only reference to which we can appeal to establish frequency. We learn "what to eat" and "what to drink" from the words of Christ when he instituted it (Matt.26:26-28) and in Paul's reference to it in 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. The Acts 20:7 reference does, in fact, teach "how often" they came together to "break bread", and it does so by a necessary inference, one of the three ways of teaching. I reach this conclusion based upon the following reasoning:

1. A thing that is to be observed annually must have both the month and day of the month for its observance. Example: your birthday. Or a Bible example would be Pentecost, the day following the seventh Sabbath after the Passover, which was an annual occurrence.

2. Anything that is to be done monthly must have a day of the month. Example: a house payment, or rent, due on the first day of the month.

3. That which is to be observed weekly need only have the day of the week. Example: the Sabbath day. The command was simply, "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." And since every week had a Sabbath day the people knew that it was a weekly observance. The local Lions' Club has a sign in front of a restaurant which says: "Lions' Club meets here, Friday at Noon." It does not say "every Friday", but all who read it will certainly reach that conclusion. Other clubs may meet twice a month and their sign may read: "Second and Fourth Friday at 12:00."

If the Lord's Supper were not to be eaten each week, then who is to decide which "first day" of which week?

Incidentally, everyone seems to understand that "upon the first day of the week let every one of them lay by him in store" (1 Corinthians 16:1,2) authorizes a weekly collection. The identical expression is used regarding the breaking of bread and it also necessarily infers a weekly observance.

- by ***Billy Moore***

Our Young People Are Not Being Taught

Some time ago a preacher said to me: "Our young people are not buying the old arguments against instrumental music." I replied: "No, our young people are not hearing the old arguments against instrumental music." Some of them are soft on the issue of instrumental music - not because they have rejected what they have been taught, but because they have never been taught at all. They do not understand the principles involved. They have never heard the old arguments relating to Bible authority, speaking where the Bible speaks, and remaining silent where the Bible is silent. They have grown up in 'socialized' churches where the youth program was strong, but the teaching program was weak. They were never exposed to "book, chapter, and verse" preaching. Some of them grew up on a style of preaching in which the favorite text was "what is wrong with the church." The old preachers, the old ways, and the old message, so dear to many of us, became to them an object of scorn and laughter, as they were incited to mirth by a new breed of preachers and youth specialists. It is little wonder that some have abandoned the church in our day!

- ***selected***

"His Parents Were Too Strict"

Have you ever heard that statement? You'll see some scraggly kid who cares about nothing and nobody, who has long ago left the Lord (though he may have been faithfully "going to church"), and who has literally broken his parents hearts. You ask a friend, "What happened to him?" And he answers, "His parents were too strict - they made him assemble when the saints assembled - they made him dress modestly - they made him keep himself clean - etc., etc., etc."

HIS PARENTS WERE TOO STRICT?? I don't believe it for a minute! They may have been inconsistent, or the child may have been rebellious, but too strict? I don't think so.

It is important that we understand that God demands that parents be strict. God commands that children obey their parents (Eph. 6:1) and honor their parents (vs 2). Fathers are

commanded to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (vs 4). That requires strictness and discipline. It requires a decided attitude about what that father wants his child to be morally and spiritually.

Now, if you’re talking about the parent who is ungodly, who wants his children to be something that he doesn’t intend to be, that’s HYPOCRISY. Or if you’re talking about the child of godly parents who makes up his mind that he’s not going to live right, that’s REBELLION. But, remember, a child doesn’t ruin his life simply because a godly mother and father were “too strict.” He had to go wrong IN SPITE OF all that they did for him. God demands that parents be strict. (see also Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17).

- by Boyd Sellers

Help, Don’t Hinder

What do you do when you see a fellow Christian make a mistake? It may be a simple error of judgment, or it could be a more serious blunder - a sin that can potentially send his soul into eternal hell. What will you do?

Actually there are several options open to you. You could ignore the situation totally. Or you might, in your own mind, ridicule his foolishness. If you’re a little bolder, you could gossip with others about his error - belittling him as you do so. You see, there are a number of things you could do.

But, of course, there is only one thing you should do - there is only one God-ordained course of action.

- *“He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (James 5:20).
- *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”* (Galatians 6:1).

The fact is that we all need the help, encouragement and strengthening that comes from our brethren. Sadly, too often we do things that hinder rather than help our brother when he is down.

The next time you are confronted with such a situation, remember that - if you want to please God - your choice is already made. If your brother has made a mistake, there can be no ignoring of the problem, no back-biting gossip, no thoughts of ridicule or humiliation. Go to your brother with the help he needs. Don’t forget that you are certain to need this kind of help in the future, too

- by Greg Gwin