

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 16: A Humanitarian by Giving Us His Supper

In our last lesson, we saw how God sends his Holy Spirit to work in our hearts through the Gospel in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Not only does God tell us he loves us, he put that love into action by sending Jesus into the world to save us. In the same way, he not only tells us we are forgiven and saved, he also puts that forgiveness and promise into action by bringing that to us in a personal way.

The Sacraments are an assurance and reassurance that God does love us. In these Sacraments, we can taste, see, and touch God's love for us.

Today, we look at the Lord's Supper. It is called this because Jesus, our Lord, instituted it and commanded that we continue to celebrate this meal. It is also called communion because, in this meal, we are joined together with Christ in what he has done to save us and we are joined with those whom we are at the altar with in a bond of unity and faith.

.....what did you learn from chapter 16?

1. For whose benefit does God give the Gospel in Word and Sacraments, his or ours? **He gives the sacraments for us. He doesn't need them, he knows he is not lying, but we doubt, we need these reminders**

2. Why does he give them? **He gives them as a reminder to us of his love and forgiveness. Sometimes we need someone to give us a hug when they say we're forgiven because it shows us they mean it. This is God's way of saying I mean it.**

3. You may have realized by now that the Bible has a lot of depth. There are many activities that have deep significance that we sometimes miss. One of those is the meal. Pastor Cares talks about the significance of eating together. What did he say that eating together showed? **It was a sign of unity and togetherness --- a deep sign of fellowship to share a table. Added level... in a time of being ceremonial clean or unclean, the Jews were afraid that things would make them unclean, however a person would really make them unclean so choosing who you ate with was a big deal**

4. Part of that symbolism and significance of what Jesus did is seen in the meal that he was eating at the time. What meal were Jesus and his disciples eating when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper? **The Passover**

5. What did that meal remember? **God's deliverance of his people from their slavery in Egypt --- the blood of the lamb on the doorframe meant their deliverance**

6. What would this meal remember? **God's deliverance of his people from their captivity in sin. The blood of the lamb, Jesus, would save us**

7. God invites sinners like you and I to join together in this special meal. When we eat this meal what are we receiving?

✦ Luke 22:19. ¹⁹ And he took **bread**, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my **body** given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

✦ Matthew 26:27-28. ²⁷ Then he took the **cup**, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my **blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Is is a very important word, not symbolize --- Jesus says this is what it is

8. Churches teach different things about Holy Communion. If Holy Communion were just symbolic, we could change it any way we wanted to. However, when Jesus is the one who is commanding it and he gives us specific directions, we should listen and believe what he says. Do bread and wine just represent the body and blood of Jesus so that bread and wine are just there?

✦ 1 Corinthians 10:16. Is not the **cup** of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a **participation in the blood of Christ**? And is not the **bread** that we break a **participation in the body of Christ**?

No all four are there, body blood, bread wine

9. Are bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Jesus, so that only the body and blood are there?

✦ 1 Corinthians 10:16. Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

No all four are there, body blood, bread wine

10. What are the blessings of the Lord's Supper?

✦ Luke 22:19-20. ¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of your sins.

Forgiveness ----- have them all it is a package deal. Faith, Forgiveness of Sins, Life and Salvation

11. Not only does God say you are forgiven, he also has sealed that promise in something special. What did he seal this special promise with? **In the Old Testament deals were sealed in the blood of a sacrifice. Here God has sealed his promise, his forgiveness and salvation in the blood of his Son**

12. How do we prepare for the Lord's Supper?

✦ 1 Corinthians 11:28-29. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

We examine ourselves

13. Pastor Cares listed some very important things that we should recognize and realize about the Lord's Supper as we examine ourselves?

1. **Commanded by Jesus**
2. **Christ's body and blood are present**
3. **We are unified with Christ and one another**
4. **We are sinners who need forgiveness**
5. **Through this sacrament Christ is giving us his blessings of faith, forgiveness, life and salvation**

14. N According to God's Word, is everyone allowed to come to Holy Communion?

15. N When people come into a church, do they automatically know what that church teaches?

16. N When a person walks into a church, do they automatically agree (are they unified) with what they church teaches?

17. N When a person walks into a church, do they automatically know what God says about his Holy Supper?

18. N When a person walks into a church, do they automatically know what they are to examine, or what it means to examine themselves.

19. What do we need to do because all of these answers are no?

Think about Matthew 28:19-20. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Teach and train so that they know how special this supper is

20. Discuss the similarities between baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Both sacraments God used to bring us his blessings

21. Discuss the differences between baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism is completely inclusive --- general rule is we baptize

Lord's Supper is not for everyone, there is some teaching and training we may need.

22. How does God demonstrate himself to be the Ultimate Humanitarian in giving us this meal?

Assignment: Please read Chapter 17 & 18 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*