

## CatClub: Question 46



This week we explore the subject of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (=Holy Communion). Please note: the Lord's Supper is for Christians only. It consists of eating a small piece of consecrated bread and drinking a small amount of consecrated wine. 'Consecrated' means 'set apart for special use'.

1. Q46 asks: What is the Lord's Supper? Answer: **Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst, bringing us into communion with God and one another, and feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom.**

In the Lord's Supper two things take place - broadly speaking, (i) what we do, and (ii) what God does. This week we concentrate on what we do when we take part in the Lord's Supper.

2. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 23-26 (see also Matthew chapter 26, verses 26-29). Here Paul is repeating what he himself was told to do by Jesus, i.e. when Christians meet to celebrate the Lord's Supper, they are to **remember** what Jesus did in giving up his body (represented by the bread) and shedding his blood (represented by the wine) when he died. When believers do this they are **proclaiming** to the whole world that **Jesus died for human sin** and that one day **he will come back to earth again** in glory to take believers into his everlasting kingdom.

2. (In the Old Testament) Exodus chapter 12, verses 1-29. The Lord's Supper was instituted (=established) by Jesus at the time in the year when Jews were celebrating the festival of **Passover**. In fact, when Jesus and his disciples met (i.e. on the night when Jesus was betrayed and arrested) they were actually celebrating Passover. Therefore we understand that **the Passover** (the celebration of the escape of God's people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt by the shedding of lamb's blood) **is now superseded by the Lord's Supper** (the celebration of the escape of God's people, the Church, from slavery to sin by the shedding of Jesus' blood).

3. (In the New Testament) John chapter 1, verse 29. When John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching, he describes him as '**the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**'. Here the writer is making a direct connection between the blood of lambs which saved God's people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt and the blood of 'The Lamb of God', i.e. Jesus, who saves God's people, the Church, from slavery to sin.

Next week's question: Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

This week's songs:

'Behold the Lamb' (Communion Hymn):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=481xyHUrWQA&list=PLv29KqSYfe2A55mzrOxvWe-iC\\_9yrYo6c&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=481xyHUrWQA&list=PLv29KqSYfe2A55mzrOxvWe-iC_9yrYo6c&index=7)

'Behold the Lamb of God': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFEK68ncZ7o>

## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## Matthew 26:26-29

<sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

## Exodus 12:1-29

### *The Passover*

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbour shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup> "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the

**houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.**

**<sup>14</sup> “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute for ever, you shall keep it as a feast. <sup>15</sup> For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup> On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. <sup>17</sup> And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute for ever. <sup>18</sup> In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. <sup>19</sup> For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. <sup>20</sup> You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”**

**<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. <sup>23</sup> For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. <sup>24</sup> You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons for ever. <sup>25</sup> And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ <sup>27</sup> you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshipped. <sup>28</sup> Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.**

### ***The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn***

**<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock.**

### **John 1:29**

**<sup>29</sup> The next day he (=John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**