

Why do members of the churches of Christ partake of the Lord's Supper on every first day of the week?

The answer to this serious biblical question is threefold and should be answered, not by the reasoning of mankind, but by the Scriptures which have been given to mankind by Almighty God in order to direct our every step, (**2 Tim. 3:16**).

The threefold answer to the question under discussion can be found in the following ways: **1) Direct Command**, **2) Approved Apostolic Example**, and **3) Necessary Implication**. Let us discuss each of these three topics in more detail.

Direct Command - Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has not left us to wonder how we are to commemorate His sacrificial death for the sins of mankind. Jesus Himself instituted the Lord's Supper and this is recorded in some detail in three of the four gospels, (**Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; and Luke 22:14-20**). **John 13:18-30** gives only brief glimpses of the fact that this event took place.

The apostle Paul makes mention of the Lord's institution of the Lord's Supper in **1 Cor. 11:23-26** - *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*

Did you notice the words in bold in the Scripture just quoted are words of "Command" from Jesus Christ? This is what Paul was teaching the church at Corinth. Partaking of the Lord's Supper was a command from our Lord and Savior, Who's body and blood the supper is to represent.

Approved Apostolic Example - This simply means that we have examples of the apostles and first century Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper in the early church and this practice was approved, in that it was not spoken against, as long as it was done so in the correct manner.

The New Testament book of **Acts** is the history book of the early church. You can see the Old Testament prophecies of **Isaiah chapter 2**, **Daniel chapter 2**, and **Joel chapter 2** fulfilled in the New Testament book of **Acts chapters 1 and 2**. In **Acts 2:42** we read, *"And they (the first Christians, erh) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

The phrase **"breaking of bread"** comes from the Greek *"klasai arton,"* and is used here, and in **Acts 20:7**, to mean the "Lord's Supper." Partaking of the Lord's Supper was part of the *"apostles' doctrine"* that had been taught to and practiced by the first Christians of the early church. In **Acts 20:7** we read, *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."* Please notice again the words of this Scripture that are bold. This verse tells us plainly that the early church, *"the disciples,"* came together on *"the first day of the week"* to partake of the Lord's Supper.

You may be saying to yourself, *"These verses still do not say that we have to partake of the Lord's Supper every first day of the week."* While that may be true, did God need to say *"every first day"* in order for that to be understood? Let us see if this kind of reasoning is biblically sound.

Necessary Implication - Concerning one of the Ten Commandments of God for the children of Israel, we read in **Ex. 20:8**, *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."* This Old Testament scripture is familiar to most everyone, but did you notice that God did not say that the Israelites were to *"Remember" every "Sabbath day, to keep it holy?"*

God did not have to tell the Israelites to keep **every** Sabbath day holy because that was "necessarily implied" in the command to keep the Sabbath day holy. Since every week has a Sabbath day, the children of God kept **every** Sabbath day holy. This same reasoning is why we in churches of Christ partake of the Lord's Supper **every** first day of the week, because every week has a first day in our day and age, just as **every** week had a Sabbath day under the Law of Moses. Most fair minded people do not seem to have any trouble understanding this simple reasoning when it comes to matters of similar nature in their secular lives. For instance, consider the person entering the secular workforce and securing their first job. During the orientation process, the employer might say to the new employee, *"Your work hours will be from 8:00am to 5:00pm, with an hour for lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, Monday through Friday."* If you were that "new employee," would you be so silly as to ask, *"Does that mean I have to come to work every Friday of every week?"* Surely we would not be so careless in our reasoning in this regard!

Conclusion - Since we can see that the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ commanded His followers to partake of the Lord's Supper, that the apostles and first century Christians believed and practiced this time of communion with our Lord, and that they did this on the first day of the week, surely we can see that the Lord also expected those in the first century church, as well as Christians from that point forward, to partake of this solemn feast every first day of the week. Some in the religious world have reasoned within themselves that remembering the Lord's sacrificial death this often would somehow take away from it's meaning. We should not forget that the real "meaning" in partaking of the Lord's Supper truly comes from doing so the **way God has said to**, for the **reason God has said to**, at the **times God has said to**. One wonders what these same religious groups would do should their members use this same reasoning concerning the collection of the saints? You also notice that **1 Cor. 16:1** does not tell us to give back a portion of our blessings **every** first day of the week either, but most religious groups are not afraid that this practice will become "less meaningful" should they do it **every** first day of the week!

The End

All Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version of The Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

Lesson article authored
by
Edward R. Henderson, Jr.
Sigsbee church of Christ

Please write or email us for a . . .
FREE Bible Correspondence Course
2707 C.R. 115, Fort Payne, AL 35967
(freebiblestudylesson@sigsbeecoc.com)

Should Christians Partake of the Lord's Supper Every First Day of the Week?



**Bible Answers
for
Bible Questions**