

**Morning Star Baptist Church**  
***"I am a Baptist Because..."***  
**Strict Communion**  
**4/22/07**

## **Introduction**

By strict we mean restricted to the members of the church that are in good standing. Sometimes this is called close or closed communion, in different parts of the U.S. We will refer to the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper as Restricted Communion.

There are of course other views on communion. The Roman Catholics believe in transubstantiation, that is, the bread and wine are mysteriously transferred into the literal body and blood of Jesus by priestcraft. Their mass is restricted to members of the universal visible church. Lutherans believe in consubstantiation, where the bread and wine are filled with the Spirit of Christ. Again, this is usually restricted to Lutherans only. Presbyterians like Baptists believe it a symbolic ordinance.

### Evangelical Views

- Open communion = all are welcome who profess faith in Jesus Christ.
- Close or closed communion = all who are in doctrinal agreement, sometimes held by Baptists.
- Restricted communion = members only of that particular, local Baptist church.

## **I. The First Supper**

A. The Lord's Supper was instituted on the heels of the Passover by the real Lamb of God. This is why we do not now celebrate the O.T. Passover with the four-legged lamb - because Christ is the Lamb of God - and there is no need to roll our sins back another year - our sins are gone.

B. Scriptures **Matthew 26:17-30, Luke 22:14-20, John 13:18-31, 36.**

### C. Scriptural Blueprint

- The first supper included only the apostles (not Judas), and other saints were not invited, like Mary, Martha, Lazarus, or Mary the Mother of Jesus.
- Self examination, "**Lord, is it I?!**" It was a very serious and solemn supper.
- The Lord waited until Judas been dismissed. All partook except Judas.
- Lord's Supper created by Jesus after commemorating the Passover.
- Was Jesus the one at the head of the table or on the table on a dish? It is strictly a symbolic supper.
- Unleavened bread = sinless body of Jesus, Fruit of the vine = precious blood of Jesus.

- They sung a hymn and then dismissed.
- There was the promise of a future supper in my Father's kingdom.
- **"This do in remembrance of me,"** an injunction to guard and keep this supper as an ordinance.

D. The Saviour then entered into the Garden of Gethsemane, and the next day, Calvary.

## II. The True Supper

A. For almost two millennia, true New Testament Churches have been commemorating the Lord's Supper as a true memorial to the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. We only have two ordinances that we must never compromise or we risk our very existence, Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

C. Communion is not a Christian or denominational ordinance, rather it was given to the Church by Christ.

**Matthew 28:19-20 "observe", I Corinthians 11:23-26** - Paul received and delivered, **Acts 16:4-5** "decrees to churches."

D. The welcome to the Lord's Table should not be extended beyond the discipline of the church.

**I Corinthians 5:4-13** - no not to eat, **I Corinthians 11:18-22** = don't eat, **I Corinthians 11:27-30** - to eat unworthily is dangerous.

E. The early churches were restricted, **"and they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers"** **Acts 2:42** And in **Acts 20:7**, the church members had the Lord's Supper, Paul preached, but did not partake.

F. Historical testimony: The Novations, Donatists, and Paulicians were strict in their membership ordinances and godly living. They were sharply criticized for being too narrow, yet because of their evangelism, they grew.

G. We must keep the known leaven out. Open or Denominational Communion makes this virtually impossible **I Corinthians 10:20-22**.

## III. The Last Supper

A. Is it not interesting that the Lord Jesus mentions a future supper when the Father's Kingdom will be on earth and Jesus will renew this special supper with new wine?

B. Immediately after John 13 and the promise to return for His bride is the espousal sharing of the cup **John 14: 1-6**.

C. Christ is in the midst of His Churches **Revelation 1:13**. He knocks on the door of His lukewarm Churches wanting to "sup" with them.

D. At the marriage supper, **Revelation 19:9**, the supper will be expanded to include the

guests, but the bride will be at the head table with her husband.

## **Conclusion**

We enjoy communion because even though it commemorates Jesus' death, He is alive today and coming again! The piece of bread and the thimble of wine are but a taste of what the Marriage Feast will be like.