

## **The Lord's Supper**

Scotty Williams

March 28, 2026

**Integration Question:** *What is the Lord's Supper? How does it relate to Passover?*

### Theological Statement

The Lord's Supper is an act that invites people to eat of bread and drink of wine that represent Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Eating of the bread and drinking of the wine spiritually connects us and our identity as participants to the continued mission of Jesus. In the Gospel according to Matthew, Matthew records Jesus himself teaching His followers that every time they eat the wine and drink the bread they are to do so in remembrance of Jesus and the New Covenant that came through Him (Matthew 26:26-29). Because the veil between heaven and earth is so thin post life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, partaking in sacraments, such as the Lord's Supper, baptism, and marriage, allows us to recognize the spiritual oneness we have with Jesus. We share this meal with others, just as Jesus and his disciples shared it with each other, as a spiritual expression and act of performative memory that shapes our identity as His New Covenant members and unites us with the sacrificed life of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:23-25).

The Lord's Supper is rooted in the Passover. For thousands of years, the Israel nation partook in Passover, the eating of bread and drinking of wine, as a remembrance of how God saved them from slavery and delivered them from the angel of death into life and freedom (Ex. 12:42-51). The Passover spiritually inaugurated the covenant that God made thereafter with the nation of Israel on Mount Sainai. In the same way, the Last Supper (which became the model for the Lord's Supper), spiritually inaugurated the New Covenant for Jesus' followers. The theological significance of Jesus, who became the Passover lamb, celebrating the Passover with His disciples, was that the tradition they and their ancestors had been doing for thousands of years had found its fulfillment in Him. Jesus commissioned His followers to continue the sacrament but in brand new way with a brand-new significance, specifically, that those who

believed in Jesus had become the New Covenant people. Followers of Jesus all around the world partake in the Lord's supper because they have been indwelt with Holy Spirit and regenerated as His image bearers.

### Ministry Application

The first application for a layperson is to see the significance of the Lord's Supper and commit to making it an important life rhythm. While baptism is typically a one-time event, the Lord's Supper should be consumed often (weekly). If a follower of Jesus finds it normal to only partake in the Lord's Supper once or twice a year, there is great need to reveal to them the spiritual significance and relational deepness the meal offers. For church leaders, it is imperative to make the Lord's Supper a vital part of the communities spiritual life. Church leaders should ensure they are offering it multiple times a month, if not every week. While the methods of offering it could change (everyone drinking and eating it at the same time versus having people go to a central location when they feel ready), offering it often should not. Just as baptism is almost expected for people who first start following Jesus, so is partaking in the Lord's Supper for all Christians. Church must be intentional to teach on and offering the Lord's Supper in order to create a culture that everyone experiences the significance of the act.

The second application of knowing the theology of the Lord's Supper is to realize and align one's heart with the weight and significance of partaking in it. People should never lightly partake in the Lord's Supper for their own sake. Paul is seen rebuking members of the church in Corinth for having a wrong motive and heart posture in taking the Lord's Supper. Practically, it is common to and appropriate to approach the Lord's Supper with a couple different heart postures- repentance and/or celebration. On one hand, Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us. It is a sobering reality that the Creator's blood was spilt on our behalf. So,

when we miss the mark and do not live in the fullness of His life, then there is remorse that should lead to repentance. On the other hand, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the fulfillment of the long awaited and prophesied New Covenant. The only way that humanity was to experience a renewed heart, life, and identity was through the outpouring of Holy Spirit which came as a result of his death. This New Covenant the most glorious celebration for His New Covenant people. It is hard to contain the joy and excitement.