



IS THE LORD'S SUPPER AN ORDINANCE?

Question: "What was the Corinthian church like?"

Answer: They were full of flesh. Paul does **not** use the word 'ordinances' for any other church. 'Ordinances' are the **orders** and instructions necessary to keep right order and holy behaviour in the church. Indeed, we have civic orders and ordinances of "Don't Park Here" and "Don't Speed Over 60km/hr" for law and order, and with appropriate penalties for non-compliance.

Question: What were these orders?

Answer: They are found in 1st Corinthians - [1Cor 1:10](#) no divisions [1Cor 1:31](#) glory in the Lord [1Cor 2:13](#) compare spiritual with spiritual [1Cor 3:8](#) reward for own labour [1Cor 3:13-15](#) take heed how you build [1Cor 3:16-17](#) be holy [1Cor 3:20-21](#) no vain glory [1Cor 4:1-2](#) be a faithful steward [1Cor 4:6](#) don't be puffed up [1Cor 4:16](#) be followers of Paul [1Cor 5:1](#) no fornication [1Cor 5:11](#) no company and eating with fornicators, covetous, idolaters, railers, drunkards or extortioners [1Cor 5:12](#) judge those within [1Cor 6:1-4,5-8](#) don't be judged in the world's courts [1Cor 6:9-10](#) no inheritance [1Cor 6:18](#) flee fornication [1Cor 7:1-40](#) marriage advice [1Cor 8:13](#) don't defile the conscience of the weak [1Cor 9:7](#) soldiers worthy to be paid [1Cor 9:19](#) be servant to all; [1Cor 9:24](#) run for the prize [1Cor 9:27](#) keep the body under [1Cor 10:6-9,10-13,14](#) cease lusting, idolatry, fornication, tempting Christ and murmuring [1Cor 10:32](#) all things edify not [1Cor 10:32](#) give none offence."

Question: When were these orders given?

Answer: In the previous chapters prior to the Lord's supper of chapter 11. Paul **delivers the orders for the church in chapters 1-10**. He then goes on to say "If you are not judging yourselves and following the orders "...as I have **delivered** (past tense) them to you..." ([1Cor 11:2](#)), you will get weak, sick and die." The Lord's supper was a **test** to see whether they were judging themselves and keeping the orders!

A similar test in the OT was the **Jealousy Test** for a woman to uncover any unfaithfulness to her husband. She would drink the water to see whether she was telling the truth. Her belly would swell and thigh would rot if her speech and heart were not as one ([Num 5:27](#)).

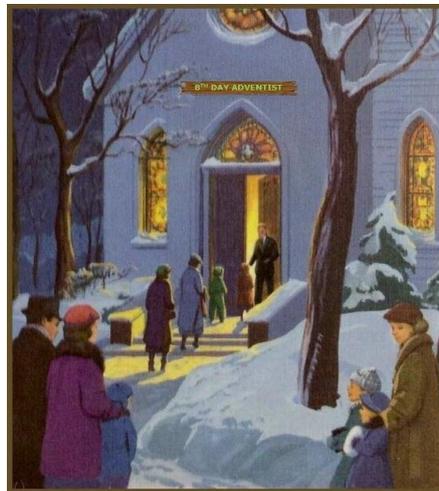
Furthermore, to say "... the cup, as **oft** as ye drink it ..." ([1Cor 11:25](#)) reveals it is **not** a mandatory order. Christians might only have the Lord's supper once a year, if that.

How often have you heard the Pastor warn the unsaved, with much gravity, not to take the Lord's supper? But taking the supper **unworthily** is directed at Christians, **not** the unsaved, who are already unworthy. Is there a special double damnation for double unworthiness for an unsaved person? I think not.

Hence, the Lord's supper is **not** an ordinance but is a **REMEMBRANCE with consequences** of not treading Christ's shed blood underfoot ([1Cor 11:25](https://www.bible.com/bible/1/1Cor/11/25)).

Harley Hitchcock

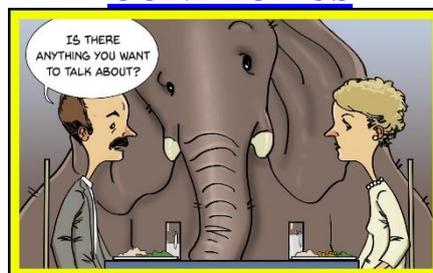
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