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Aledo, IL



Remember
Me

We hear this question often, “Why don’t you serve communion on a regular basis?”

Actually, we do observe the Lord’s Supper on a regular basis, just not as often as the average American church. If you are new to our congregation, you will soon discover that the only standard we are really concerned about is the Bible. If the Bible commands something, we do not consider obedience an option. If the Bible forbids a thing, we simply do not do it. If the Bible is silent on an issue, or allows us to use our best judgment, then we do our best and don’t worry about it until something crosses a biblical line.

So what does the Bible say about the timing of what is typically referred to as “communion” or the “Lord’s Supper”? The Lord’s Supper was (and is) actually observed on Passover.

Matthew 26:17 HCSB On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare the Passover so You may eat it?"

We shouldn’t be surprised by this because:

Luke 2:41-42 HCSB Every year His parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When He was 12 years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival.

So, when the Master said, "**Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me**" (1 Corinthians 11:25), we believe that “as often as you drink it” means once a year at Passover. This is reinforced by Paul’s statement.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 HCSB Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, since you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old yeast, or with the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Notice that Paul commanded us to observe the feast in the verse above. Clearly, the Lord’s Supper did not entail the tiny wafer and cup that cultural Christians now use since Paul had to warn the Corinthians against having some go hungry while others got drunk! (1 Corinthians 11:20-21) He was clearly referring to Pesach (Passover). **Pesach is the Lord’s Supper.** That is why we do not refer to any **other** remembrance ritual as the Lord’s Supper. There is only one Lord’s Supper!

That is not to say that we feel the only time we may EVER observe a ritual to remind us of the Messiah’s death is at Passover for,

Romans 14:5 HCSB One person considers one day to be above another day. Someone else considers every day to be the same. Each one must be fully convinced in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16 HCSB Therefore don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a sabbath day.

We refer to the remembrance ritual as a Zakar service. The Hebrew verb *zakar* (pronounced *zahair*) principally describes actions that bring something to mind. But this isn’t simply a cognitive exercise. It’s not like remembering that the capitol of Paraguay is Asunción. *Zakar* is both personal and relational. To remember is to “take to heart” with the intention of acting upon the matter. Participating in

a Zakar service should motivate us to continue living lives marked by righteous acts (Ephesians 4:1).

We generally hold a Zakar service on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and at the Christmas Eve service. We also feel free to have a Zakar service as part of any other worship service when it seems to be appropriate; to be a natural fit with the theme of worship that day. We simply don't feel that we should be obligated to have "communion" each week or each month or whatever other arbitrary date some denomination has made into a human tradition without any biblical basis. We know what Jesus said about *that*, don't we?

Matthew 15:3 HCSB He answered them, "**And why do you break God's commandment because of your tradition?**"

Mark 7:7-8 HCSB "**They worship Me in vain, teaching as doctrines the commands of men. Disregarding the command of God, you keep the tradition of men.**"

It's amazing the superstitious power that human traditions have on some—like "communion", Easter or Christmas (the observance of which are not commanded anywhere in the Scriptures). One goal of the Elders here at CBF is to help our people move away from such things and to draw closer to the observance of what is actually commanded in the Scriptures on numerous occasions.

If frequent observance of a memorial service to remind you of the Lord's death for your sins is critical to you (such as a Zakar service), you DO have the option of developing a fitting ritual in your own home with your own family or friends. You don't have to worry about not being clergy for:

1 Peter 2:9 HCSB But you are a **chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

Acts 2:46 HCSB And every day they devoted themselves *to meeting* together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.

You may have noticed that when we use the term "communion", we placed quotation marks around the word. In many Christian churches, the term "communion" has been used to refer to the ritual where one takes juice (or wine) and a wafer (or bread). We generally use juice and bread in our Zakar service. We feel that it is a mistake, however, to use the word "communion" for this ritual. It implies that participation in the service is how one communes (fellowships) with God. Participating in a Zakar service is a very tiny part of our fellowship, or communion, with God. We should commune with God every day—every moment of the day!

Simply remember this, communion with God, and "communion" rituals are very different things; we may often lose the former in our zeal for the latter. How often have we Christians displayed much zeal in contending for some man-made tradition, while our souls were often barren and void of personal communion with Christ Himself. How often, too, like the disciples going to Emmaus, have we talked much about *the things connected with Christ*, when, if *He Himself* were to draw near, we should not know Him.

For an in-depth study of the Lord's Supper (Passover/Pesach) and the Zakar service, feel free to contact the church office for materials written by Pastor Pauley that may help you in your research. We want to commend you for your desire to remember the Messiah's sacrifice and want to encourage you to evaluate any customs and traditions you may have in light of the Scriptures. We are certainly allowed to have traditions, but we need to be clear about what is actually taught in the Bible and what is merely a human tradition.

Community Bible Fellowship
1109 SE 3rd Street
Aledo, IL 61231
309.582.7406
office@cbfaledo.org