

The Biblical view of the Lord's Supper vs. the notion of the Supper as contained in a communal meal

A Table of Contrasts

The Biblical and historical evangelical View	The Supper contained within a communal meal view
Historically held by virtually all sound evangelical churches for 2,000 years.	Historically only held by a few minor heretics, such as the Dunkers.
Is based upon sound, clear exegesis.	Is based upon strained (and wrong) exegesis of certain Greek words and extremely poor reasoning.
Is founded chiefly upon apostolic teaching in 1 Cor 11 (the earliest and fullest exposition of the Supper).	Rests more upon the Passover meal of Christ and the disciples as a precedent. This fails to notice the changes Christ made for the Supper as the New Covenant ritual.
Is essentially focused upon the death (atonement) of Christ, which is the pivotal point of God's plan and all history.	Focuses much more upon the Supper as looking forward to the future Messianic banquet.
Claims that the Supper is a memorial of Christ's death.	Claims that the Supper is to remind God of his promise to consummate salvation and begin the banquet. [Note: there is no teaching in scripture that God is to be reminded; reminders in rituals are always for man, not God.]
Is conducted in all decency, order, reverence, and worship.	Leads to a superficial approach that is irreverent; the result is a lack of decency (denying 1 Cor 14:40) with people doing normal social things (chatting, knitting, kids playing) while the Supper is being taken.
Honours the body of Christ.	Incurs judgment since the body of Christ is not discerned properly (1 Cor 11:27-30).
The setting is spiritual in obedience to scripture.	This setting is worldly.
Proclaims (preaches) Christ's death (1 Cor 11:26) and is thus a testimony to angels (Eph 3:10).	Fails to proclaim Christ's death at all.
Is a prompt for worship in the fear of God.	Dumbs-down worship to a point of non-existence.
Is a means of grace; Christ is known spiritually, and faith is stimulated, through the elements received.	Is a means of condemnation since the Biblical commands are being denied.

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version © Thomas Nelson 1982

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