Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – October 14, 2018

Do This In Remembrance of Me

Why the bread? Why the wine?

Because they celebrate Incarnation and Covenant.

 All four gospels tell of Jesus eating “The Last Supper” with His disciples the night He was betrayed, the eve of His going to the Cross. It was during a Passover meal, which celebrated God saving Israel from the oppression of Egypt, that Jesus took the elements of bread and wine and “repurposed” them, or redefined them as something greater than Passover. For Passover commemorated, through a sacrificial lamb and a simple meal, a temporal salvation. The Lord’s Supper commemorates the Sacrifice (Jesus Himself, the Lamb), pictured in the bread and wine. John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Hebrews 10:12; 1 John 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21

✞ The bread signifies Jesus’ body: Incarnation grace. John 1:14

 The bread does not become Jesus’ body. Obviously, the original loaf was being held by the hands of Jesus’ body and eaten by the mouth of Jesus’ body. We do not become Christians by eating the bread, nor do we observe this Supper to curry favor with God. In fact, we observe the Supper because He has shown us His favor (grace) already. The bread represents, or pictures, Jesus’ body broken for us. This implies. . .

 That Jesus is one with His people. His body was real and human.

 That Jesus sacrifices himself for His people. His body was broken.

 That Jesus identifies with His people. His body was broken for us.

See Hebrews 2:17, 18; Philippians 2:6-8; Romans 8:3.

✞ The Cup signifies Jesus’ blood: Covenant grace. Luke 22:20

 Jesus says, “This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in my blood. . .” The disciples instantly would have recalled Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NIV84)

31 “The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

 This helps us understand the significance of the wine, which often is a symbol for blood in the Bible, for it implies. . .

 That the Law had not produced the righteousness God requires because Israel broke it. Only grace will do!

 That Jesus’ death alone would be the means by which forgiveness, obedience, and eternal life would come.

That the enormity of mankind’s sins and failures is revealed. Our sin and rebellion are so great that only the death of God’s Son would atone, or pay, for them.

See 1 Corinthians 10:16; John 6:25-59; Romans 5:6-11; Hebrews 10:1-22.

For Growth Groups

Why do you think Jesus gives us this object lesson of grace?

Why did the Law of Moses fail? How does that implicate us, too?

How do we know that the bread and wine do not become the body and blood of Jesus? John 6:35. What is behind that interpretation, and man’s desire to keep offering sacrifices? Why does Peter call every believer a priest? 1 Peter 2:1-10