

The Cup and the Covenant

Matthew 26:26-30

Matthew 26:26-30 (NASB)

²⁶ “While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you;

²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

²⁹ “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”

³⁰ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus' last meal with His disciples took place during the celebration of Passover. Giving them bread, He said, “Take, eat; this is My body” ([Matthew 26:26](#)). Next, offering wine from a shared cup, He told them, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” ([Matthew 26:27-28](#)). Believers today observe the Lord's Supper as a symbol of cleansing, consecration, and communion.

Jesus' blood *cleanses* us from sin. Starting with Adam and Eve, God required a blood sacrifice to cover transgressions ([Genesis 3:21](#); [Leviticus 17:11](#)).

Genesis 3:21 (NASB)

²¹ “The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”

Leviticus 17:11 (NASB)

¹¹ “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”

But this was just a temporary solution, as the next offense required yet another sacrifice. Jesus was God's permanent answer to the problem: He took upon Himself all sin—past, present, and future—and died to pay the full penalty.

When people receive salvation, they are *consecrated*, or set apart to the Lord. Their sins are forgiven, and they receive eternal life as well as the indwelling Holy Spirit. At times they may forget they belong to the Lord and give in to temptation. The bread and the cup are an opportunity to remember what God expects of His children and to renew a commitment to obey.

The Lord's Supper is also a time to be in *communion*. We are connected not only with the Lord who saved us but also with past and present believers. Among members of God's family, we find comfort and support, just as the disciples and the early church did.

The Lord's Supper is a good time to stop and recall what Jesus has given us. Partake solemnly and gratefully.