

ESSENTIALS TO UNDERSTANDING COMMUNION

Reference: **I Corinthians 11:23-26**

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Definition: An ordinance is defined as “a practice or a custom that is established through usage or through some _____.”

There are different biblical names assigned to this ordinance. Some of them are:

- 1) the _____ of _____
Reference: **I Corinthians 10:16a**
- 2) _____ (this is probably the term most familiar term to us)
Reference: **I Corinthians 10:16b**
- 3) the _____ of the _____
Reference: **I Corinthians 10:21a**
- 4) the _____
Reference: **I Corinthians 10:21b**
- 5) the _____
Reference: **I Corinthians 11:20**
- 6) the _____ (from the Greek word “*eucharistia*” translated into English as “*given thanks*” this is the word Catholics use most often.
Reference: **I Corinthians 11:24** “and when He had **given thanks**...”
- 7) the _____ of _____
Reference: **Acts 2:42**

The specific accounts of where and how this ordinance was established are found in: **Matthew 26:26-29**, **Mark 14:22-25**, **Luke 22:19-20** and **I Corinthians 11:23-26**.

Most theologians agree that Paul’s account in **I Corinthians** is the first biblical record of the instructions to the Lord’s Supper.
Reference: **I Corinthians 11:23-26** (see screen)

Passover remembers how the Jewish people were freed after four centuries of servitude to the Egyptians.
Read **verses 24-25** (see screen)

The Catholic position on communion from the beginning is called _____.

The Catholic mass is divided into two sections:
The first section is called the **liturgy** of the _____.

The second section is called the **liturgy** of the _____ and during that time the congregants are served communion.

Catholicism teaches that something called transubstantiation happens during communion. The term transubstantiation means “to change from _____ to _____.”

Transubstantiation teaches that at the Catholic mass after the priest has blessed the elements this wafer _____ into Jesus actual sacrificial body and the wine _____ into Jesus actual sacrificial blood.

Reference: **John 6:52-56** (see screen)

There are numerous problems if we understand this passage to teach transubstantiation:

- The text from John's gospel _____ a reference to communion.
- To drink blood or to eat meat that still contained blood was _____ in the Old Testament Mosaic law.
Reference: **Genesis 9:4, Deuteronomy 12:16, 23-24; 15:23; Acts 15:29**, etc.
- Catholicism interprets **verse fifty four** to teach that someone receives eternal life through eating Jesus flesh and drinking Jesus blood; but, if eating Jesus flesh and drinking Jesus blood is a reference to communion then that means someone _____ eternal life through _____ communion and that totally contradicts the entire rest of the New Testament. The New Testament is emphatic that someone receives eternal life after receiving Jesus through faith and not some sacramental ritual.
Reference: **John 3:16, 3:36, 5:24; I John 5:11-13**, etc.

- Jesus used _____ language in describing communion.
We should first consider biblical language in a literal sense unless other considerations make it impossible to interpret those statements from that literal perspective. Some of those determinative considerations are:
_____ - both immediate context and remote context
_____ - how the passage is constructed in a grammatical sense
_____ - it is consistent with the rest of Scripture since Scripture doesn't contradict itself
_____ sense - is a literal interpretation of the text absurd?
Examples of biblical metaphors: **Matthew 10:6; Matthew 5:14-16; Matthew 7:15; Matthew 12:34; Matthew 25:33; John 10:7, 9; John 15:1; Luke 13:31-32**

- If transubstantiation is true then it essentially means that at mass Jesus is being **re-sacrificed** or **re-presented as a sacrifice** because if the bread and wine are actually changed into his crucified flesh and crucified blood it implies that _____ for sins has just transpired. But Scripture specifically teaches Jesus was sacrificed for sins once and only once!
References: **I Peter 3:18a; Hebrews 10:12; John 19:30** (see screen)

Transubstantiation is not an acceptable position because communion does **not** constitute a re-sacrifice and it is not a continuation of the same original sacrifice.

The non-Catholic evangelical position is called the _____ or symbolic perspective. The elements are just symbols that represent Christ's body and blood. That means communion is basically a *memorial service* that is designed to specifically remind us as to what Jesus did for us.

References: **verses 24, 25 and 26** (see screen)

Communion commemoration is a **memorial** service.
It is not a **funeral** because the deceased is not present at the service.
The reason the deceased isn't there is because He is _____!!!