



QUESTIONS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER (PART 1)

By Brett Hickey

When people heard in the 1890's that germs could be passed by drinking after one another, they began to introduce individual cups for the Lord's Supper in Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and other denominations. About twenty years later some churches of Christ followed their lead. Since then many congregations have adopted the use of individual cups although Jesus' command "Do this in remembrance of me," clearly refers to the sharing of one cup within the assembly on the Lord's day (Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 1 Corinthians 11:25-29).

Attempting to justify the practice, some who advocate the use of individual cups ask, "How could the church serve communion to thousands of people in Jerusalem after Pentecost with only one cup?"

I cannot find an assembly of thousands of people observing the Lord's Supper in Scripture. The question assumes what must first be established before giving the question merit. The New Testament teaches that first century congregations assembled in smaller numbers.

J. D. Phillips in his booklet, **The Cup of the Lord**, provides scholarly support for the gathering of first century Christians in smaller assemblies:

1) "The oldest meeting-places of Christian worship were rooms in ordinary dwellings" (**Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge**, Article "Altar").

2) "The places of Christian assembly were at first rooms

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in private houses. In large towns, where such a place of assembly could not accommodate all, it became necessary that smaller portions of the community dwelling at a distance, should choose other places for their meetings on Sunday" (J. A. W. Neander, **General History of the Christian Religion and Church**, 402).

3) "At the beginning the Roman Emperors cared little about the Christians. But when their numbers increased, trouble came. The Christians were suspected of forming a dangerous secret organization. When they met privately to observe the Lord's supper it was thought they plotted against Caesar" (William Harrison Mace, **The Story of Old Europe and Young America**, 125).

4) "'Continuing daily, with one accord, in the temple.' This is not to express, that the temple was their meeting place either for hearing of their sermons, or administering the sacraments; for neither of these

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June TV Broadcast Schedule

6/4

Sermon #1097

The Thief on the Cross

6/11

Sermon #1098

The Sinner's Prayer

6/18

Sermon #1099

Blood of the Lamb

6/25

Sermon #1100

Baptism for the Dead

would have been endured there, as appeareth from Acts 4:1" (**Whole Works of John Lightfoot**, Vol. 8, 62).

5) "...[I]n a society, consisting of many thousand members there should be many places of meeting. The congregation meeting at each place would come to be known as 'the Church' in this or that man's house (Rom. 16:5, 15; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:5; Philem 2)." (Sir William Smith, **A Concise Dictionary of the Bible for the Use of Families and Students**, 481).

6) "Every city had a congregation of Christian worshippers. They met, not in the synagogues, as did the Jews, but in private houses. The meeting of each was called ecclesia from the Greek ekklesia for assembly. They sang hymns, listened to the readings from the Holy Scriptures, and partook of a meal in memory of the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples" (Early European History by Hutton Webster)

When we are committed to following the pattern (1 Corinthians 11:2; Jude 3; Revelation 22:18-19), this issue resolves itself. Please contact us if you would like additional material on this subject.



Audio / video library, transcripts and other information can be found at:
www.LetTheBibleSpeak.com



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Upcoming Gospel Meetings

June 21-25

Bankhead Drive CHURCH OF CHRIST

2610 East Bankhead Drive

Weatherford, TX

Speaker: Greg Gay

7:30 pm (21st-23rd)

6:00 pm (24th)

10:30 am & 2:00 PM (25th)

We support Brett Hickey's message, and the truths taught in the Bible for all mankind. We assist bringing this TV program to the north Texas area, and are glad you have watched the program! We would like you to visit any of our worship services!

Allen

East Allen CHURCH OF CHRIST

1008 E. Exchange Parkway
Allen, TX

Arlington

CHURCH OF CHRIST on Green Oaks

4601 S. W. Green Oaks Blvd.
Arlington, TX

Bridgeport

East Mound CHURCH OF CHRIST

Highway 2123, 1.5 miles south of town
Bridgeport, TX

Canton

Phalba CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hwy 198 between Maybank & Canton
at Hwy 316 intersection
Phalba, TX

Cleburne

South Walnut CHURCH OF CHRIST

306 South Walnut Street
Cleburne, TX

Dallas

Dallas CHURCH OF CHRIST

122 Carol Lane
Red Oak, TX

Dallas (Spanish speaking services)

Dallas CHURCH OF CHRIST

2802 Walton Walker Boulevard
Dallas, TX

Duncanville

Duncanville CHURCH OF CHRIST

1615 Stratford Lane
Duncanville, TX

Fort Worth

Fossil Creek CHURCH OF CHRIST

3517 North Beach Street
Fort Worth, TX

Frisco

CHURCH OF CHRIST in Frisco

9201 North County Road
Frisco, TX

Grapevine

CHURCH OF CHRIST in Grapevine

713 North Lucas Drive
Grapevine, TX

Lewisville

Denton county CHURCH OF CHRIST

1305 S. Business State Highway 121,
Suite 105
Lewisville, TX

Mineral Wells

Mineral Wells CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Southeast 15th Street
Mineral Wells, TX

Paris

Paris CHURCH OF CHRIST

35 13th Street S.E.
Paris, TX

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Northview CHURCH OF CHRIST

NE corner of I-30 Frontage & Industrial
Blvd
Rockwall, TX

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