



QUESTIONS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER (PART 2)

By Brett Hickey

Several churches took credit for introducing the use of individual cups in the Lord's Supper. Congregationalist pastor and medical doctor, J. G. Thomas, was granted a patent for the practice in March, 1894. The Methodist Review (May 1914, p. 506) cited Thomas' congregation as originating individual communion. At about the same time, the Central Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, claimed to be "the first church in the world to adopt the use of the individual chalices in...Holy Communion."¹ Methodist², Baptist³, and Methodist Episcopal⁴ congregations insisted that they first initiated the practice between 1892 and 1894.

About twenty years later, evangelist G. C. Brewer, writes of the innovation beginning in the churches of Christ in his autobiography, *Forty Years on the Firing Line* (1948):

"I think I was the first preacher to advocate the use of the individual communion cup and the first church in the State of Tennessee that adopted it was the church for which I was preaching, the Central Church of Christ at Chattanooga, Tennessee.... Of course, I was fought both privately and publicly and several brethren took me to task in the religious papers and called me digressive."

The instructions, however, regarding the cup are brief and clear. Jesus uses general language in Luke 22:17, "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide (share – NAS, HCSB, ISV, WEB, NLT) it among yourselves...'" We find that we are to divide or share the cup by all

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drinking from it in Matthew 26:27, "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you.'"

Sadly, instead of taking the steps necessary to obey Jesus' commands, Christians who prefer the use of individual cups try to free themselves from this obligation by excluding the mention of a literal cup. Kyle Pope takes the usual approach saying, "By the term 'cup,' the Lord was not referring to the container but to its contents."⁵ It is common for those unwilling to follow the teaching of Christ to claim that the word "cup" is figurative in the phrase, "He took the cup."

E. W. Bullinger writes, "Whenever and wherever it

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Doctrines of Demons (part 2)

is possible, the words of Scripture are to be understood literally.”⁶ The word “cup” in the phrase, “Drink this cup” (1 Corinthians 11:26) must be taken figuratively, but “cup” must be taken literally in Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17, 20a; 1 Corinthians 11:25a, 28. Greek-English Lexicons by Arndt & Gingrich (1975, 702) and Joseph Thayer (1974, 533) record this fact.

The Lord’s Supper is the most sacred ordinance for the Christian. The Spirit says that one who participates “in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 11:26). Since Jesus tells us “This do...in remembrance of Me,” we must be sure to keep it “just as” it was delivered (1 Corinthians 11:2).

¹ *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*. September 24, 1894, p. 8

² *Utica Weekly Herald (New York)*. March 12, 1893, p. 11.

³ *Journal of the American Medical Association*. June 8, 1895, p. 890.

⁴ *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. December 2, 1892, p. 2.

⁵ <http://focusmagazine.org/does-the-bible-authorize-the-lords-supper-on-sunday-night.php>. Accessed 7/8/2017.

⁶ *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. 1981, p. xv.



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Upcoming Gospel Meetings

July 12-16

South Walnut CHURCH OF CHRIST

306 South Walnut Street

Cleburne, TX

Speaker: Ronny Wade

7:30 pm (12th-14th)

6:00 pm (15th)

10:30 am & 2:30 PM (16th)

July 26-30

Fossil Creek CHURCH OF CHRIST

3517 North Beach Street

Fort Worth, TX

Speaker: Clint DeFrance

7:30 pm (26th-28th)

6:00 pm (29th)

10:00 am & 1:30 PM (30th)

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

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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

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Mineral Wells CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Southeast 15th Street
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35 13th Street S.E.
Paris, TX

Rockwall

Northview CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Blvd
Rockwall, TX

Weatherford

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Weatherford, TX