

Holy Communion: Biblical Doctrine; Local Practice

July 21, 2013



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

1. Review;
 - A. Growing up in the church; baptism, instruction (Catechism; Bible Study), confirmation, confession/Absolution, communion. (Which are Commanded; Tradition? Lutheran stance on Tradition.....)
 - B. Admission to communion – Who is responsible?
 1. The individual?
 2. The congregation/Elders?
 3. The Pastor?

The congregation's practice is usually expressed in her 'communion statement.'

2. Emmanuel's practice.
 1. What was impacted by moving from 'announcing for communion' to a statement in the bulletin in the practice of Emmanuel? Tradition or doctrine? (CA 25)

Confession in the churches is not abolished among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously examined and absolved. And the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution, about which formerly there was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize the absolution, as being the voice of God, and pronounced by God's command. The power of the Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins. Aforetime satisfactions were immoderately extolled; of faith and the merit of Christ and the righteousness of faith no mention was made; wherefore, on this point, our churches are by no means to be blamed. For this even our adversaries must needs concede to us that the doctrine concerning repentance has been most diligently treated and laid open by our teachers.

Benefits of [private] confession/absolution:

Peace of conscience.

Personal counsel; correction of faith.

2. Opportunities for 'more time' on Sunday morning before Communion.

Freedom and Congregational resolutions; suggestion that only binds the pastor vs. commitment of the congregation to use the pastoral service as provided.

For reference: (1 Corinthians 11.17ff). . .

Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹For there must also be factions among you, that **those who are approved may be recognized among you.** ²⁰Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

²³For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

²⁷Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸**But let a man examine himself,** and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.