



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

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**1 Corinthians 1:25** - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Uncommon Sense** - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**1 Corinthians 11:17-22 ESV**

**The Lord's Supper**

<sup>17</sup>But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup>For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, <sup>19</sup>for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. <sup>20</sup>When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. <sup>21</sup>For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup>What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

Friendsgiving:

What it was, how it went, and the benefits of it.

What did that show us? That there is nothing like a meal that brings people together, that gives them a sense of real connection to a group of people that they associate with. In the show it deepened the sense that these were the people that were "always there for each other". There "Fellowship" was



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---

highlighted by the "Friendsgiving" meal. It was the physical representation of what was truly important in their lives, friends.

## **Introduction**

In the early church the structure for community was built around the theme of fellowship as well. Fellowship's biggest aid in building a true Christian community was the family meal, or their version of "Friendsgiving". Most believe that at the end of this meal is when they would raise the cup and would offer a memorial for the Lord to honor His sacrifice and victory in this world, so the Lord's Supper was accompanied by the Church's Supper: gaining strength through food, through comradeship, and most importantly through the presence of a Living God!

What we will be doing over the next couple of weeks, is to go through, *outside of Baptism*, the oldest of Christian ordinances/practices, that was prescribed by the Lord Himself, of which we have been practicing over 2K years. We happen to come to it during a time of year that nationally portrays another meal called "[Thanksgiving](#)" a Christian holiday that is celebrated to remember the Lord's Goodness. So perhaps over the next couple of weeks we can heighten the feel and weight of Thanksgiving in your homes by clarifying and teaching on the MOST IMPORTANT meal we could participate in which is the Lord's Supper.

What we will do today is give some introductory content to the Lord's supper. First, we look at or **remember its' roots** and where it came from and how it started. Then we will **explore its' nature**, what it is made up of and what it means the elements themselves. Next, we can then move onto the **falsehood that was being portrayed** in the Corinthian church, and in practice we **reject that as God's people**, and embrace what it is for us now. Then next week we will further dive into how it should be practiced and the benefits of it when we do it together as a people.

So, if you have ever wondered why we do it, or what makes it is so important, or why we as a Particular Baptist celebrate the Lord's Supper every week, this is where you will get your answers!



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**MP:**

**Honor Christ by Honoring the Gathered Body.**

**1. Remembering the Roots.**

There are two ordinances or practices that if you have been around the church for a while you have witnessed, and it does not matter if you are orthodox or protestant you have seen them. They are the practices of Baptism and the practice of Communion/Lord's Supper. The reasons we attach so much significance to these two things is that the Lord told us to do them Himself. These things are a vital part of the Christian experience, they are not to be ignored or just tacked onto something, they carry great significance. Here's what makes these things so important:

- Prescribed by the Lord
- Proclaimed among the saints
- Practiced by church
- Participated by only saints
- Picture of anointing sacrifice and bodily resurrection of Jesus.

(See also Mat 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor 10:16-22; & 1 Cor 11:17-34.)

Let me read to you perhaps the oldest written account of that night.

**Mark 14:22-25 ESV**

**Institution of the Lord's Supper**

<sup>22</sup> And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup> Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."



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---

This is a very serious and celebratory thing in the life of the church, and it sets this fellowship separate from anything else like it in the world! This is why though in today's passage; it has Paul so perturbed.

<sup>17</sup> But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse.

Even as serious as last week was when the ladies were wearing their hair, not in accordance with submission to their husbands and by culture standards were dressing like prostitutes, that only drew a sarcastic chastisement from Paul. No, he's letting them know upfront, we have gone from Defcon 3 of 'high alert' to Defcon 1 'nuclear strike', and it wasn't Paul's doing. No what Paul is doing is he is reacting to what the Lord has already done to them!

**1 Corinthians 11:29-30 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without **discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are **weak** and **ill**, and some have **died**.

Paul is like, look this is not about whether you think I am overreacting, or you want to use that lame excuse, "but I follow Apollos or I follow Stephen (Peter)." That won't save you here. You are dying because you are bringing judgment on yourselves due to the serious nature of what it is you are experiencing while you are in grave sin when you experience it! You are declaring to the world you follow Christ, you remember His life, death, and resurrection, and that the actions you are doing model Him. It is blasphemy pure and simple...

It may have been the poor fools were Gentiles and did not get it, there was no distinct part of their past that taught them reverence like those Jews who were now Christians. You see the Root of the Lord's Supper is birthed out of a tradition that was almost 1400K years old already; that of Passover.

On that night when our Lord broke bread was the night of their most Holy Holiday, Passover. It was the fellowship meal where they ate the bread

- **Matzah:** A flat, unleavened bread representing the haste with which the Israelites left Egypt.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

---

- **Maror:** Bitter herbs, such as horseradish or romaine lettuce, to symbolize the bitterness of slavery.
- **Karpas:** A green vegetable, often parsley, that is dipped in saltwater to represent the tears of the enslaved Israelites.
- **Charoset:** A sweet paste of fruits, nuts, and wine that resembles the mortar the Israelites used to build for the Egyptians.
- **Z'roa:** A lamb shank bone, symbolizing the Paschal lamb sacrifice from the Exodus story.
- **Beitzah:** A roasted or hard-boiled egg, which can symbolize both mourning and the cycle of life.

The disciples were at this celebratory feast with Jesus that night, and that night, in that upper room, the image of that meal finally came into focus on what it was to represent. Jesus that night in place of the lamb would give Himself for His followers. He would spill His blood for His people, a blood that ushers in the New covenant of Jeremiah 31, so that death may Passover them. A one-time sacrifice for the payment for sins was finally found acceptable. That is the root of the Lord's Supper, a solemn yet worshipful experience that elevates what God does for us, therefore let us all live in such a way that reflects our Lord's worth. AMEN...

We honor the Lord by honoring one another in our actions for how we love one another displays the love of Christ for His people.

## **2. Exploring the Nature.**

Well, we see how the root of Lord's Supper is embedded in the OT, in God's History of saving a people, by His work alone. But let's talk a moment about what happens during the event of the Lord's Supper, what is going on behind the scenes if you will, or the veil in the Spirit World that you can't see? I know that for many of us in here, with all the diverse backgrounds it would do us good to examine the major traditional beliefs of Christianity when it comes to this communion.

Over the last 2,000 years there are 4 ways that have been developed by which you can view the Lord's Supper, and each one views the nature of the Lord's supper in a different and unique way.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
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---

- **Transubstantiation** (Roman Catholic) – The Bread and Wine become the actual body and blood of Christ in substance.

This change occurs through the priest's consecration before the distribution. This allows for the belief that the church's administration of the gift is what saves you. While they would claim that communion does not save you, the act of receiving it, but the denial of communion to its' members by the church shows that they believe the power to save or condemn lies within the clergy.

### **LBCF 1689 The Lord's Supper 30.7**

"Worthy recipients who outwardly partake of the visible elements in this ordinance also by faith inwardly receive and feed on Christ crucified and all the benefits of his death. They do so really and truly, **yet not physically and bodily but spiritually**. The body and blood of Christ **are not present** bodily or physically in the ordinance but spiritually to the faith of believers, just as the elements themselves are present to their outward senses.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>[1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26](#).

What this view portrays is that a person must physically be touched by the actual body and blood of Christ to be saved and therefore, it does not matter what your faith proclaims if no communion then entrance into heaven.

- **Consubstantiation/ Sacramental Union** (Lutheran) - Christ is truly present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine, but the elements remain bread and wine (no change in substance).

It's a real, physical presence. So, it seems the best I can make of it, is that there is a Phantom presence within the elements but no tangible presence. They take this from the literal words of Christ, "This is my body, and this is my blood," in the Supper accounts in scripture (See also Mat 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor 10:16-22; & 1 Cor 11:17-34). What that means though is two things: 1<sup>st</sup> it blindly denies that [Jesus used metaphorical language](#), when in fact He did all the time. Also, it is a denial that He used a symbolic meal, to point to a symbolic event, and that denial leads to the belief that Faith + the Sacramental Union is required for a truly happy and powerful



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

---

Christian life. This actually goes against the very thing that Luther fought for in Sola Fide.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> view are very similar and overlap:

- **Spiritual Presence** (Calvinist/Reformed)

A Middle view: Christ is spiritually (not Physically) present to believers through the Holy Spirit during the supper.

The elements remain symbols, but the meal is a real means of grace. Biblical basis: 1 Cor. 10:16-17 (Participation in Christ); John 6 (feeding on Christ by faith). Key Figure John Calvin.

- **Memorial/Symbolic** (Baptist, many Evangelicals)

A remembrance of Christ's sacrifice-symbolic, not literal.

Christ is spiritually present through faith, but not physically in the elements. Biblical basis: "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor, 11:24-25). Key figures: Ulrich Zwingli.

So, in review where are we in all of this, well yes, like a Baptist we see it as Memorial, but as a church that adheres to the Reformed Faith, that means we believe that Jesus is with us in Spirit. You see as a Reformed Baptist we are both memorial and spiritual presence people at the same time. Christ has been reunited with his Divine Nature and has the ability to be where He wants and when He wants in Spirit, and yet He is in His glorified body in a specific place at a specific time. Therefore, as Paul says, we specifically participate in Christ, in union with Him, in His Spirit, who is present in this place when we partake of communion together.

**1 Cor 10:16** – "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?"

That is also why we use the Lord's Supper every time we gather as the focus on what Jesus has done for us, that which we could not do for ourselves. Every week it is to take that which we learned in God's Word, and to discover how the Gospel saves us from wrong thoughts and sinful actions. It is to



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
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---

participate with Jesus in His active Salvation in us. **So yes, the nature is memorial, as in it looks to what He has done, but it is also participatory, as we celebrate what He is actively doing in us in that moment, individually and corporately, calling us to repent and keep believing in Him.**

Family, considering that fact every week, are you taking this time of memorial and participation in the serious nature in which it is given and is commanded? Are there things in your life that you need to repent of and turn from, is there something that you believe Christ cannot save you from, something that He is powerless against. If so, trust in Him, and practice your faith in Him, confess your sins, take of the Supper, and show Him by communing with Him and this family, you are totally dependent on Him to rescue you. Participating in the Lord's Supper Honor Him again admitting you are dependent on Him, and it honors this family, by stating to each other in a public way, we don't know what tomorrow holds, but I am with you in following our Lord. (*"Choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."*)

### **3. Describing the Falsehood.**

Well through the years of Christian tradition of the Lord's Supper, it would have looked like what was taking place in that upper room that night before Jesus died, except not just once a year. No, it was included in a weekly meal that was held among the body, a true "Friendsgiving"! That meal would take place on the first day of the week, on their day of corporate worship. We have an account of what this may have looked like from the book of Acts.

#### **Acts 2:41-44 ESV**

<sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

#### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

---

Then it says later in acts 20 that a pattern developed and instead of day to day, they met on the first day of the week.

**Acts 20:7 ESV**

<sup>7</sup>On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

So, they hung out, they didn't rush home, they had a meal, and then more teaching. That meal was called in the early church a "love feast". Here's what happened in those meals. The rich and the poor, the free and the slave, the Jew and the Gentile alike, all came together, and all shared what they had to celebrate, to highlight, the Fellowship of the Saints. That was not just a pleasantry but that was a necessity. Many of these people, in fact a large amount of the early church were poor or slaves. This meal for many of those people may be the only good meal they may have all week. This act of coming together and bringing the essentials is what kept the poor in clothes, the sick in care, and the widows with essential provisions. Communion most likely was the cherry on the top of that day; when the needs were met and the stomachs were filled, then it was time to pay honor to He in whose name all this love was given. It honored the Lord that His sacrifice would bring real help for people in need. The meal, the feeling of fullness, the physical effect of being loved, demonstrated the true love of Christ, the whole day culminated in the remembrance of Christ!

It is because of this wonderful and amazing event that Paul is so dismayed at what it had become. It had become a lovefest alright, but it was now a lovefest of self.

<sup>18</sup>For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are **divisions** among you. And I believe it in part, <sup>19</sup>for there must be **factions** among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
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---

The first fruit you get out of abusing the Lord's Supper and what it means is that it causes divisions<sup>1</sup> (v.18) when you gather. This is where we get the word "schism" from, a split/fracture. Division in the church had already happened in 1 Corinthians, those that wanted to conduct sexual misconduct, those that wanted to boast in the arguments over poor theology, those that wanted to embrace their freedoms without consideration towards others, and now it appears that those same people have accomplished what they had set out to do, they had caused a division in the church, by how they treated the Lord's Supper.

Family let that be a lesson to all of us in here, if all you can do in your church is find reasons why you don't like what is being taught, reasons why you don't want to be around other members, reasons why you don't want to contribute, reasons why you feel compelled to practice your freedoms even when people don't understand them, then let me explain something. The problem is not the church, the pastor, nor the theology, the problem is you! If you don't like it leave but stop letting your distaste for the place where you come to worship ruin it for everyone else. If it is a theological matter let the elders know in love and leave, but causing dissension by being a brat isn't doing anyone good and all it's doing for you is hardening your heart, which may be damming to you one day!

Ok so these divisions have now caused factions<sup>2</sup> or separate groupings, the word in the Greek is where we get 'heresy' from. It doesn't carry such a dark connotation that we give that word, but here in the text it means it has pulled all the people who are out for making the church all about themselves, it has now separated them from the others.

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<sup>1</sup> **v. 18 "Divisions"** - **5388** σχίσμα (*schisma*), ατος (*atos*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ Str 4978; TDNT 7.963-1. LN 19.28 **tear**, split (Mt 9:16; Mk 2:21+); **2.** LN 39.13 **division**, social dissension (Jn 7:43; 9:16; 10:19; 1Co 1:10; 11:18; 12:25+) "Schismata" (differences of opinion) pervaded the church, compounding existing party, spirit and class divisions.

<sup>2</sup> **v. 19 "Factions"** **146** αἵρεσις (*haireisis*), ἔσεως (*eseōs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 139; TDNT 1.180-1. LN 11.50 **religious party**, sect (Ac 5:17; 15:5; 24:5, 14; 26:5; 28:22+); **2.** LN 33.241 **false teaching**, heresy (2Pe 2:1+); **3.** LN 63.27 **division**, faction, separate group (1Co 11:19; Gal 5:20+), note: some of these entries and verses may overlap.  
[God uses conflicts to reveal the "approved" \(dokimoi\)—those proven in trials—though "woe" to the one who causes offences \(Matt 18:7; Luke 17:1-2\).](#)  
[Hebrews 12:4-11](#) Endure discipline for God does it as a loving Father as to a son.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

---

Now, it is from here, where we get an answer for why God allows this to happen in a church, especially when unity is so important for a church to exist and be effective. God allows it so that He may Separate [the wheat from the tares](#), so that the true church the 'invisible church' can now recognize each other and the unconverted can be confronted with truth. I have seen this numerous times now in the church family, and it astounds me still, to see people hear the Gospel week in and week out, to see them take advantage of the fellowship here, and then see God separate those people out who have worn out their welcome. Sometimes it is for their good, and they go onto a church that perhaps can help them mature or where they will learn that the grass was not greener. Sometimes though, it leads to condemnation, for I have seen the same people that complain about you or I only to end up leaving the church eventually, altogether showing they were never converted. All that, God allows so that He may keep ministry going and may clean out the church aisles, every once in a while.

Ok so what is causing all this division and factions?

**<sup>20</sup>When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. <sup>21</sup>For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. <sup>22</sup>What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.**

The Corinthians, the faction of do what makes you feel good or what we have come to know as, "all things are lawful" have taken the 'love feast' and made it a gluttonous Roman party and what's more they have rubbed it in the faces of those who are not of the same social status. You see it seems that the rich had the bigger homes that could hold the church people for gatherings but before they came over, they ate with the well to do friends so they wouldn't have to share. This is why they are getting sick and dying because instead of celebrating the Lord's death, life, and resurrection as the hope for His people, they have made it a mockery where the chief end of man is to glorify himself in his revelry. Paul is like I'm glad you did it, because we now can see who needs to go.



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

---

This is such a needed message now family. Could it be the church in America, the ones getting a little fat in the budget and a little lean in the converts, are they headed down this road too? Is the state of our land right now due to the fact that the seeker friendly churches got people in way too fast to use their money, while not tending to the flock that was already there? Did that model of church lose its' holiness, did it lose its' salt, did it profane Christ by how they did not honor those that truly were Christ followers?

#### **4. Rejecting the Fakeness.**

##### **[CALL TO OBEY]**

- **Come to the table and come rightly.**

Coming to communion is the act of admitting you need Christ again for this week. You have not figured it out, you need His presence in your life, AND you are admitting a commitment to not just Him but to the family He has joined you with.

- **Reject divisiveness, elitism, classism, and selfishness; pursue unity and love.**

We reject those things that separate us, whether it is a dislike, color of skin, a social status, a personal history, a personality quirk, age differences, all are equal by their need for Christ and all are equal in the need for each other in this room. No one person in the room has it all together and every person in this room is required for the health of this church.

- **Embrace the Spirit's use of trials for He will reveal the factions.**

We don't get upset and we don't scatter when there is a problem in the body or a discipline issue arises, as a matter of fact it is to be expected. There will always be people in the body that will need to be singled out by God's Spirit, so that they can be challenged on their beliefs for their good, and for a teaching opportunity for the body. It is the way the church keeps reforming.

**MP:**



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
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---

**Honor Christ by Honoring the Gathered Body.**

Family I pray over the next few weeks that you take the time together with others in this room, find the space to celebrate God's goodness together, and honor the name of the Lord through how you love on one another.

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Our Lord on the night of His death would fulfill all that a Passover lamb could not. His life was lived in a way that honored God perfectly. He offered His life to His followers without payment, He would supply all the spiritual food they would ever need. He gave away the fruit of His labor freely to His people. They could rest in His finished work. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. While we have resented sharing with others, when we excluded fellowship with others because of petty differences, when we were condemned for not loving our neighbor as ourselves, our sins were still covered by His perfect blood. Once and for all, and for all of time, our forever high priest has made a way for us! Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
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\* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

**LBCF 1689 Chapter 30 Paragraph 1. The Purpose of the Lord's Supper**

The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night he was betrayed. It should be observed in his churches to the end of the age as a perpetual remembrance and display to the world of the sacrifice of himself in his death. 1 The Lord's Supper is also given for the confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits of Christ's death for their spiritual nourishment and growth in him for their further engagement in and to all the duties they owe to him and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him and each other 2

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

2. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 21

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that has made a way for us by providing his only begotten as the only acceptable sacrifice, all hallowed is His name.

Go in the name of the Son, that gives selflessly His life for ours, go and live in the freedoms that only He could earn.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that makes us aware of Christ's presence in the Lord's Supper and who is our helper in all moments of need. Share the good news with this world!



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**Wk. 29 Lord's Supper Done Right Pt 1**  
**By Pastor Jody May 11/16/2025**

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