

# TTT380 - Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship Series. Part 7 - Leading the Lord's Supper

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17 September 2024

## Introduction

Today, we continue a series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering. Last week, we focussed on testimonies. Today's topic is the Lord's Supper.

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## Details

This article is not about the 'how' of the Lord's Supper—how many prayers, wine or juice, where in the service order it is best placed, and whether visitors and children should be allowed to participate—that's another topic. Instead, we will focus on the role of the speaker.

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## Good News

Remember that what you are talking and praying about is good news. There is a difference between being sober (taking something seriously) and sombre (making us gloomy). Please help us to be grateful and rejoice. Our sins are no more! The Lord's Supper took place around a table, not on an altar. When we gather round the 'table', we are communion-ing with one another and God through Christ. That's something worth celebrating.

*“Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*  
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

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## Jesus

Make Jesus the focus, not our sins. Jesus said, “Remember me”, not “Remember your sins”.

*“And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”” Luke 22.19*

Your hearers must personally apply the Lord’s Supper for themselves. However, the critical question is, “What are we left thinking about when you’ve finished sharing ourselves or Jesus?”

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## Together

Convey that this is a collective remembrance. While there *is* a place for personal reflection, we are taking the meal together as a spiritual family.

*“So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk.” (1 Corinthians 11:20-21)*

The Corinthians had many problems in their gatherings (understatement!), but the one thing they were getting right was that they met *together* to take the Lord’s Supper. In “Come to the Table”, John Mark Hicks notes:

*“Table...is not simply about vertical communion with God. On the contrary, to sit at the table is to commit to serving those who sit at the table with you.”*

When planning your talk, consider how you can make it a shared and personal experience.

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## Priority

Is the Lord’s Supper the *most* essential part of the service? Some would say it is, but Christian traditions have differing views. The New Testament does not tell us the order of significance between singing, prayer, learning from the Word, fellowship, and the Lord’s Supper.

That may be deliberate. None of them will become an unintentional idol if they are all important and regularly thoughtfully practised. Suffice it to say, the Lord’s Supper is a vital and integral part of meaningful, Christ-focused worship.

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## Questions for reflection & discussion

What is the most meaningful aspect of the Lord's Supper for you, and why? If you could change one thing about how the Lord's Supper is currently conducted in your fellowship, what would it be, and how would that make it more meaningful?

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# Summary

A well-thought-out talk about the Lord's Supper has the potential to refresh our faith and gratitude. I have written and recorded on this topic previously. This video is the first in a five-part series on talking about the Lord's Supper: [https://youtu.be/lhP8CgFKisk?si=TO5w\\_v1A-jEXXpMg](https://youtu.be/lhP8CgFKisk?si=TO5w_v1A-jEXXpMg).

It's time for the challenge of the week. The next time you have an opportunity to share the Lord's Supper, what will your talk contain to help us walk into the week ahead with hope and love?

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## Next week

Next time, we will explore preaching and teaching.

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Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

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Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: [malcolm@malcolmcox.org](mailto:malcolm@malcolmcox.org).

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God grows His people", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

Please pass the link on, subscribe, and leave a review.

Keep calm and carry on teaching.

God bless, Malcolm