

Who Should Participate in the Lord's Supper?

We at Grace Bible Church celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly in accord with what we believe to be the practice of the early church (Acts 2:42 20:7, I Cor. 11:23-27).

We practice what some would call "open Communion" meaning that believers who are not members of our local church are welcome to participate.

The Bible teaches that we should examine ourselves before eating the bread and drinking the cup (I Cor. 11:28).

1. **Are you a Christian believer?** Participation in the Lord's Supper is only for those who have trusted in the atoning death of Jesus Christ as their only hope for the forgiveness of sin and right standing with God (Romans 5:1, Philippians 3:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, I Peter 3:18). Ordinarily believers will have expressed their faith through the other ordinance established by our Lord, baptism (Matthew 28:19).
2. **Are you prepared to partake in a worthy manner?** Partaking in a worthy manner does not mean that you can somehow make yourself worthy or that you must have had a good (almost sinless) week before you are allowed to eat and drink. Partaking worthily means that you take your participation in The Lord's Supper seriously and that you recognize and appreciate what the bread and cup signify in representing the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 11:23-31). Partaking worthily also implies that you are in fellowship with God, not in a state of unrepentant sin (I John 1:8-10).
3. **Are you in right relationship with your fellow believers?** The Lord's Supper in addition to representing our union with Christ, reflects our oneness (communion) with our Christian brethren (I Corinthians 10:16-17). Are you committed and accountable to a local church (Hebrews 13:17, I Cor. 12:12ff)? Are you in good standing with your local church (not under church discipline -- I Cor. 5:11-13)? Have you done everything within your power to resolve significant sin issues with your fellow believers (Matthew 5:23-24, Romans 12:18, I Cor. 10:16-17)?

If you have any question as to whether you should participate in the Lord's Supper, we encourage you to abstain today and talk to one of our Elders (Pastors) after the service.