

## The Five W's of the Lord's Supper

Sometimes I hear about members of the Lord's church wanting to partake of the Lord's Supper at weddings, funerals, family functions, etc. Do Christians have the authority to partake of the Lord's Supper at these functions? Paul said in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name [with the authority] of the Lord Jesus." God's Word gives us specific instructions regarding the Lord's Supper and when we go outside of those instructions, we are breaking God's Law. God gives us the five W's of the Lord's Supper: Who, When, Where, What, and Why.

The Lord's Supper is observed by Christians (who) on the first day of the week (when) in the worship assembly (where) and consists of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (what) to remember Christ's death (why) (Matthew 26:26-35; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11 and other passages).

I went to a wedding of two Christians. The groom wanted the immediate family to partake of the Lord's Supper together after the ceremony. When asked why he wanted to do that, his response was, he wanted it to represent the unity of the two families. They partook of the Lord's Supper with non-Christians on a Saturday at a wedding to signify the unity of two families.

Let's look at this in a table format for simplicity:

<b>God's Instructions for the Lord's Supper:</b>			
Observed by Christians	On the first day of the week (Sunday)	In the worship assembly	To remember Christ's death
<b>Man's Actions:</b>			
Observed by non-Christians	On a Saturday	At a wedding	To represent the unity of two families

Did these two Christians partake of the Lord's supper in a worthy manner? Paul rebuked the church in Corinth for partaking the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner in I Corinthians 11. When they were coming together as the church to partake of the Lord's Supper, they were treating it like a common meal (verses 17-22). Paul had to remind them what the Lord's Supper was really about. He then told them they needed to repent and start partaking the Lord's Supper correctly—according to God's instructions (verses 23-33).

We, as Christians, must do everything with Christ's authority as Paul stated in Colossians 3:17, and we must never have the attitude that we can go outside God's instructions and still be pleasing to Him.