

It is this additional assurance (not different from that of the written Word, just additional) that may be seen as a special blessing connected with the Lord's Supper.

3. The mode of the Lord's Supper

Although there are many minor questions related to mode (e.g., Should recipients partake at the altar rail or remain in their seats? Should the bread be wafers or crackers or loaf bread? Should loaf bread be left whole until broken by the recipients or broken or cut beforehand? Should grape juice or wine be used? Should there be one large cup or many small cups? May substitutes for bread and wine be used when these are not available?), there are really no major differences in mode among the various churches.

4. The subjects of the Lord's Supper

The first condition for acceptable participation in the Lord's Supper is saving faith in Jesus Christ. It would seem obvious that one who has never stood at the foot of the cross and gazed at those bleeding wounds, has never cried, "Lord Jesus, I am lost; save me!" and has never by faith received the forgiveness of sins, has no place or right at this memorial of His death.

The second condition for acceptable participation in the Lord's Supper is discernment of the spiritual significance of the Lord's Supper. One who comes to the table of the Lord must recognize the true spiritual significance of the bread and the cup, and must recognize and seek to manifest the true spiritual unity of the body of Christ.

The third condition for acceptable participation is confession of sin. In the very broad sense, confession of sin includes six elements:

- (1) Conviction of sin, objectively by the Word, subjectively by the Spirit
- (2) Confession of sin, which means that I say the same thing about my sin that God says about it.
- (3) Godly sorrow for sin, as I get a biblical view of my sin, and see what salvation from my sin cost the Son of God
- (4) Turning from, abhorrence of, and (by God's grace) forsaking of the sin that I have confessed
- (5) Asking God for forgiveness, cleansing, and deliverance from my sin, on the basis of Christ's shed blood and according to God's faithful and gracious promise
- (6) Trusting God to forgive, cleanse, and deliver me from the sin that I have confessed. This includes telling Him that I trust Him to do it, and believing that He does it.

The fourth condition for acceptable participation is faith in God's promise in the Supper. Christ says, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins." As we trust in Christ's atoning work we have God's assurance that our sins are forgiven. We have in this ordinance God's visible Word that it is so.