

Those who have never received Christ as Savior and Lord, those who view this ordinance as an empty, meaningless ritual, those who are engaged in open sin or indulge themselves in secret sin, and those who withhold faith in God's Word in the Supper do not meet the conditions for acceptable participation in this ordinance. But those who are trusting Christ, those who have a competent knowledge to discern the body, those who earnestly desire to renounce their sins and lead a holy and godly life, and those who believe God's Word are invited, yes even commanded to partake. Christ says, "Take, eat." He commands, "This do." Refusal to come and partake is disobedience!

But there are some who hold back, who feel unworthy, and who feel that if they partake, they will be doing so unworthily. They need to discern where their unworthiness lies. If they feel unworthy because their sins have never been forgiven, they need to come to Christ and receive His forgiveness. If they feel unworthy because they have experienced sin and failure and defeat in their lives, they need to come confessing their sins, remembering that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. If they feel unworthy because of lukewarmness of spirit or coldness of heart, they need to return to the foot of the cross, and see His love flowing down in His own life-blood. Let all who come to the table confess that they are entirely unworthy in themselves, and let them find all of their worthiness in Him who is infinitely worthy! Let Christ, not self, be the focus of this ordinance of the Lord's Supper.