

The Significance of the Elements

Text: Matthew 26:26-27

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Elkin, NC

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I. THE BREAD

- A. According to Jesus, the bread represents his body (*v. 26*)
- B. Christ's physical body confirms his humanity
- C. Christ's humanity was important
 - 1) In his sinless humanity, Jesus was able to live according to the law and do what no other person could
 - 2) Jesus obeyed God's law fulfilling it in a way humanity could not, serving as our representative
 - 3) His humanity provided a true human body and blood that could be sacrificed for the forgiveness of sins
 - 4) Because of his humanity, his life serves as a model of human obedience, having understood humanity's struggles firsthand (*Heb. 4:14-16*)
 - 5) His humble and sinless life serves as a model for human loyalty to the Father (*Phil. 2:5-11*)

II. THE CUP

- A. The cup represents his blood (*v. 27*)
- B. Jesus said that the wine represented the blood of the New Testament. God told the nation of Israel that there would come a time when he would make a new covenant with them, a covenant that would replace the old Mosaic covenant. The new covenant would be based on Christ's death (*Jer. 31:31-37*)
- C. The wine represents the "new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." It symbolizes the blood shed for the remission of sins and represents the fulfillment of God's promise to his people.
- D. The blood signifies the death of Jesus as the ultimate, substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of humanity.
- E. The shedding of blood signifies the price paid for salvation, which is essential for cleansing sinners (*Heb. 9:22*)

III. CONCLUSION

- A. The elements remind us to reflect on the cross, highlighting Christ's sacrificial, substitutionary death for us
- B. Eating the bread and drinking the cup represent our participation in Christ's life and are acts of obedience to his command to remember him.
- C. The bread and cup represent our connection with Christ and with one another as one body.
- D. Jesus entrusted this ordinance to the church, and it is to be observed until He returns (*1 Cor. 11:23-26*)