

## **Our Practice of the Lord's Supper**

### **1 Our Catechism (Scripture Texts are replaced from *God's Eternal Word*)**

**Q 305.** Who must not be given the Sacrament?

A. Those who are openly ungodly and unrepentant, including those who take part in non-Christian religious worship.

1 Corinthians 5:11,13 But now I am writing to you that you should not associate with anyone who calls himself a fellow-Christian and yet is sexually immoral, or greedy, or worships idols, or is a slanderer, or a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat with the person who is like this. ...God will judge those who are outside. "Expel the wicked man from among yourselves."

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 What [pagans] are offering they are sacrificing to demons, and not to God. I do not want you to become partners with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and of the table of demons.

B. Those who are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled. They show thereby that they do not really believe that God forgives them either.

Matthew 6:15 If you do not forgive the sins of others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Bible Narrative: The unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

C. Those of a different confession of faith, since the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the unity of faith.

Acts 2:42 They continued steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles and in the fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.

1 Corinthians 10:17 Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 11:26 Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death, until He comes.

Romans 16:17 Watch out for those who cause the divisions and the obstacles that are contrary to the teaching that you have learned, and turn away from them.

D. Those who are unable to examine themselves, such as infants, people who have not received proper instruction, or the unconscious.

1 Corinthians 11:28 Let a person examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

Note: Pastors as stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1) have the greatest responsibility as to who should be admitted to the Sacrament. Some of the responsibility also rests with the congregation and the communicant.

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### **2 A Letter from Dr Martin Luther to the Christians in Frankfurt, 1533.**

Therefore, this is my honest advice, for which before God I am held accountable both to you in Frankfurt and wherever else: whoever has public knowledge that his pastor teaches Zwinglianly, he should avoid him and rather go without the Sacrament all this life long rather than receive it from him --- yes, even be ready to die on this account and suffering everything before that. If his pastor is one of the double-tongued sort who mouths it out that in the Sacrament the body and blood of Christ are present and true, and yet who prompts an uneasiness that he is selling something in a sack and means something other than what the words say, you should go to him, be free to inquire of him, and have him say quite plainly what it is he gives out to you with his hands and what you receive in your mouth. What one believes or does not believe in the heart can wait for another time. One should put to him the straight question: "What is held here in hand and mouth?"

[Translated by Jon D. Vieker, Lutheran Forum (Pentecost 1990).

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### **3 A Statement by Dr Martin Luther about Belief in the Real Presence.**

I regard them all as cut out of the same cloth, whoever they are, who are unwilling to believe that the Lord's body in the Supper is His true, natural body, which the wicked or Judas receive orally just as well as St Peter and all saints. Whoever, say I, is unwilling to believe this should not bother me with letters, writings, or words and should not expect any fellowship from me. Nothing can come of it.

[From *What Luther Says*, volume 2 pages 807-808].

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### **4 A Statement on the Necessity of Close Communion, by Dr Martin Luther**

Christ addressed His sermon to all, as did the apostles later on. All heard it, believers and unbelievers. He, who accepted it, accepted it. This we, too, must do. But we must not cast the Sacrament to crowds of people in this way... When I preach the Gospel, I do not know upon whom it makes an impression; but in the case of the

Sacrament I should hold that it has made an impression upon him who comes to it.  
[From *What Luther Says*, volume 2, page 809.]