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Principles of Christian Growth

Section Two: The Means of Christian Growth – How do we do it?

Lesson Six: We grow through the ordinance of the Lord's Table.

Bible Reading: Luke 22:1-38, 1 Cor. 11:16-34.

The Jewish celebration of the Passover is where the ordinance of the Lord's Table traces its beginning (Luke 22:1-7). You may remember that this holiday was instituted in Israel just before the 10th plague upon Egypt that would secure their freedom and give birth to their nation (Exodus 11-12). That plague was the death of the firstborn. Each household was to kill a lamb and shed its blood on the posts and lintel of their doorway to save their firstborn from the curse. Jesus introduces new clarity into this celebration, but not new meaning (vv. 19-20). He is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). He is the Firstborn among many firstborn brethren (Rom. 8:29, Heb. 12:23).

Discussion questions:

1. What was especially wrong with both the first celebration of the Lord's Table (Luke 22:21-27) and that of the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 11:16-22)? How are we to avoid these pitfalls?
2. What is the significance of Paul's contrast between the church of God and the houses of His people when it comes to the ordinance of the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 11:22)?
3. The juice and the bread are symbols of the shed blood and broken body of our Savior. What are some of the ways those symbols should affect our spiritual growth at the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 11:23-34)? Have you experienced that help with spiritual growth? Why or why not?