

Bible Answers to Various Questions

March 2023



Lord's Supper Questions



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- Must the Lord's supper be taken in an assembly of the church?
- Can the Lord's supper be taken multiple times on Sunday?
- Is one physical cup required or can multiple cups be used?

Lord's Supper Basics (Lk 22:15-23, Mt 26:26-29, 1Cor 11:23-34)



For this study we will assume everyone understands what the Bible says about

- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to remember His death and resurrection
- Christians are to do this on the first day of the week (Sunday)
- Christians are to examine themselves before partaking
- The elements are Fruit of the vine and unleavened bread

Must the Lord's supper be taken in an assembly of the church?

- Consider Acts 20:7
 - "Disciples came together to break bread", that is partake in the Lord's Supper
- Consider 1 Cor 11:17 - 34
 - V17 and v20 tells us that the church is to assemble to partake of the Lord's supper
 - In this case, the Corinthians were not assembling for the right reason
 - 1Co 11:33 NASB So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
- There is no example of Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper except in the assembly and on Sunday.
 - This includes all of Paul's journeys on a ship.
 - Note: There is no example of an assembly on the ship
- Given this, we have no authority to partake of the Lord's Supper in any other context. Recall what we learned about specific and generic commands

Can the Lord's Supper be Taken Multiple Times on Sunday?

- We have no example of it being taken multiple times on a Sunday
- We have no example of the church assembling multiple times in a day
 - Logically we can conclude meeting multiple times is not a problem
 - We have the generic authority to spread God's word and to worship Him
- 1Co 11:26 NASB For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
 - This passage make it clear what we are doing each time we partake
- So, if a congregation chooses to partake of the Lord's Supper twice, it must be in the assembly and follow the same rules.
 - Could or Should everyone partake a second time with those who missed the first time?
- Is a second offering of the Lord's Supper required or necessary?

Is one physical cup required or can multiple cups be used?

- Is the “cup” or the “contents” being discussed?
- Mat 26:39 NASB And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."
- Mat 20:22 NASB But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They *said to Him, "We are able."
- Mat 26:27-29 NASB And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; (28) for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. (29) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."
- The word “cup” is a metonymy
 - Definition - the substitution of the name or an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example suit for business executive, or the track for the horse racing

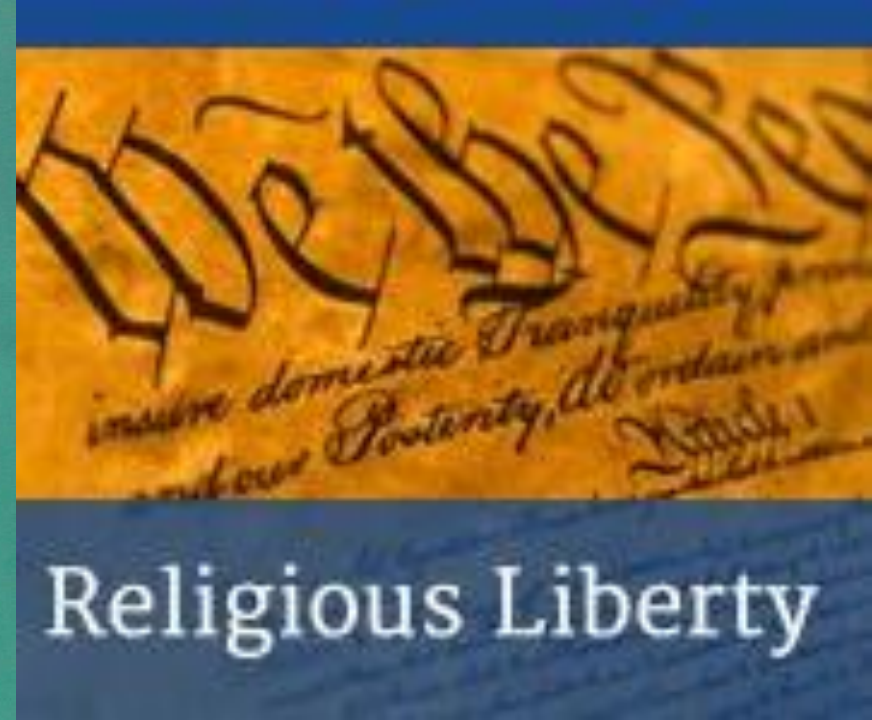
Conclusion

- Remember the biblical rules but acknowledge there are “ox in the ditch” situations that may drive a **temporary** deviation from the rules
- Respect the belief of others on Lord’s supper specifics deferring to their opinion when possible but without violating your conscience.
- Brethren need not create contention over these matters.
- Remember
 - Php 2:3-4 NASB Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
 - Rom 14:3 KJV Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.
 - This verse only applies to the “generic” parts of Lord’s Supper (frequency on Sunday, number of cups, “ox in the ditch” situations)
 - Rom 14:23 NASB But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
- Note: As with everything God asks of us, it can come with a personal cost so be willing to pay the cost.

Religious Exemptions



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- Does the Bible allow a Christian to file a religious exemption to prevent the taking of a vaccine?

What is a Religious Exemption

- In the United States, employers have the responsibility to create a safe and unbiased work environment for people of different races and beliefs. Religious beliefs are one freedom protected in the workplace by Title VII of the US Civil Rights Act of 1964. In short, this civil right was put in place so employees never need to make the decision between their job and practicing their religion.
- It requests must be about the employees religious beliefs, not any other topic
- It must be a religious exemption, not a political exemption.

Example 1 from the Internet

- I've always been taught that God is the author of my life, so it's only logical for me to live by His rules. My religious beliefs as a Christian don't allow me receive vaccines for Covid-19 because they conflict with scripture about purity and health matters. The law requires accommodation services offered if you want exemption based on your faith families who would rather not break any laws while still practicing their own religions practices rights guaranteed by Title VII of the US Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Example 2 from the Internet

- I am a Christian and my beliefs as such prevent me from receiving any vaccines, even though the law requires that those with religious exemptions be offered accommodation. I cannot receive this vaccine under because it goes against what I believe in which would make practicing good health an impossible task for someone like myself - who wants nothing but pureness of body! The authorities should make accommodations possible so people can maintain their faith without infringing upon others' choices too much; after all we're human too.
- Here is a scripture that resonates deeply with me:
 - 1 Cor 6:19 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"
- I have prayed about this subject a lot. I know this is the right choice based on my deeply held religious beliefs.

Typical Exemption for Covid 19

(from the internet)

- The Christian arguments for opposing COVID-19 vaccinations are generally twofold:
- First is the connection between vaccines and abortion. The vaccines do not contain fetal cells, but at various stages of vaccine development and manufacturing, some of the vaccines used fetal tissue, some of which were derived from an aborted fetus. This is a sensitive and complicated issue, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has a thorough description of it here.
- Second, Biblical verses are believed to be relevant to vaccinations, such as 1 Corinthians 6:19: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own."

What Does the Bible Say on Religious Exemptions?

- 2Pe 1:2-3 NASB Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
 - The Bible has the answer
- Pro 6:16-19 NASB There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: (17) Haughty eyes, a **lying tongue**, And hands that shed innocent blood, (18) A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, (19) **A false witness who utters lies**, And one who spreads strife among brothers.
- God allows medications (1 Tim 5:23, Prov 31:6-7)
- Obey those who have authority over you including the government (Rom 13:1)
- We are allowed to use the government/laws to protect us. Paul did this (Acts 28:19)

Conclusion

- Any exemption filed MUST be a state your truthful and sincere belief which is backed by scripture.
- A religious exemption is not about objecting to what you do not like. It is not a political statement of refusal.
- If the statement matches your belief, then file it. If not, do not file it.

Cheated by a Brother in Christ



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- Can a Christian sue another Christian?
- A brother has stolen your life savings. How do you get it back?

1 Cor 6:1-11 Says

- Do not go to the government to settle a dispute when it is between two Christians (v1-6)
- It is better to be wronged, that is lose what is in question, than to take your brother before the government (v7-11)
- This is simple to understand. It is hard to accept as the “value” increases.
- So, if my brother and I are in a business deal, and he owes me \$10K, can I take him to court to get the money I am owed?
- If a Christian steals my car and refuses to give it back, can I call the police on him to get back my car? Can I press charges?
- If my wife and I are Christians, and we are getting a divorce, should I use the courts to settle the terms of the divorce?
- How should two Christians settle a dispute?