



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

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<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

Vol. 40, No. 8

February 22, 2026

The Lord's Supper: Its Observance

At least four different religious ideas are connected with our observance of the Lord's Supper. All of these have very deep significance.

First, the communion is always associated with prayer. When He set up this act of worship, Jesus, our example, gave thanks for each of the elements of the communion service. The serious prayers uttered when we commune with the Lord involve thanksgiving and petition.

The second important element to remember in the communion service is the element of fellowship. In this practice there is fellowship with each other as members of God's chosen family, fellowship with God the Father, and fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 26:29 suggests that since the establishment of the kingdom on the day of Pentecost, our Lord has been meeting with His disciples. In some way, He is present when we all come together to participate in the communion.

The third element of the Lord's Supper is to be found in the fact that it is a memorial. Paul speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 11. This institution is the perpetual reminder that we are saved by the blood of Christ. When we partake of this supper, we remember that Jesus died on the cross. We remember that on that cross He shed His blood for us, for the remission of our sins. God wants us to keep that memorial alive.

Finally, the communion service is a declaration. When we partake, as Paul states in 1 Corinthians 11, we declare our faith that Jesus will come again. The Lord's Supper is observed in a spirit of hope with an attitude of optimism on the first day of every week. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Not Many Mighty and Noble

The words of Paul to the Corinthians reveal so much about the response to the gospel when the lost hear it. "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Cor. 2:26). Why is this true? All of mankind is invited to come to Jesus, but so many of the mighty and noble do not answer the invitation. Much can be learned by looking at those who were mighty or noble who did respond.

There were those whom the Bible describes as noble who did respond. John chapter four describes a nobleman who lived in Capernaum and traveled more than twenty miles to see Jesus in Cana. His child was dying, and he begged Jesus to come and heal his son. Jesus told him to return home for his son would be healed. "So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went on his way" (John 4:50). Read it carefully. Unlike most who are noble and do not respond, this man responded because he believed the word of Jesus. Every noble man who believes and obeys the teaching of Jesus will be saved. Those who do not will be lost - not because they are noble but because they fail to listen to Jesus.

What about the mighty? The mighty are those whose position in life has placed them above others. An example of this would be centurions, the Roman officers who commanded a hundred soldiers. Why is it that some centurions responded and realized who Jesus was?

Matthew chapter eight and Luke chapter seven describe a centurion who lived in Capernaum. He had used his own money to build a synagogue for the Jews. He sent the elders among the Jews to ask Jesus to heal his sick servant. As Jesus approached his house, the centurion gave this message to Jesus. "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof." He was a mighty man but realized the Mighty One. He said, "I did not think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed."

How did Jesus describe this mighty man? The Lord turned to that crowd who was following Him and said, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel" (Luke 7:9). Why did this man, this powerful soldier, find such favor from the Lord? His great faith was verbalized when he said that all that was needed was for Jesus to simply say the word. Mighty men whose hearts respond to the words of Jesus will be among those who are called and become the chosen (Matt. 22:14).

The gospel is for all mankind, but only those who are humble enough to listen to the words of Jesus will become the chosen people of God.

Manners

Manners obviously have to do with one's behavior. You would tend to think it is not a problem among Christians, but sometimes their conduct can be shameful.

One of the greatest sayings of our Lord refers to this very thing. As the disciples were going out on the Limited Commission, the Lord clearly stated, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

What a shame that good brethren have not yet realized that the manner in which we act can have a powerful effect upon those that hear what we say. A polite, courteous, tender approach can have a greater effect than a crass, straight-forward, abrupt, and callous speech. Someone once said that you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

This writer, in delivering a sermon, was once told, "That was the most loving sermon I ever heard on Hell." The truth is precious. But so is the way we present ourselves and that message.

It is sad to see good brethren with virtually no good manners. And then to top it off, to hear them relate Gospel truths with the tact of a rough piece of sandpaper.

People take notice if we use good manners. They take notice of how we present ourselves. If you want them to hear the truths of God's Word, then you need to be very careful in your manner of life and how you deal with others. If you use good manners and are polite and courteous, quite often it will open the door for another opportunity which could make the difference!

It is discouraging to hear people speak to you about the ill-mannered preachers or church members they have come across. In such instances,

you have to work twice as hard to make them realize that you have the manners of a gentleman or gentlewoman. With extra suspicion and trepidation, they slowly will realize that you are sincere and loving and a soul just might be saved!

It is Finished

The statement "It is finished" is considered by many to be one of final statements of Jesus as He hung on Calvary's cross. What did Jesus mean when he referred to "it?" No doubt he was referring to the work the Father gave Him to do (John 9:4). Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Obviously, all the lost were not yet saved when Jesus died. The process for saving them, however, was finished. Jesus put in motion the preaching of the gospel. He gave the Great Commission to His disciples so men could know what to do to be saved (Mark 16:15, 16). He shed His blood to open the door to heaven for Jew and Gentile alike.

Jesus also came that all men might have life (John 10:10). John tells us that "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). Jesus opened the door of life for all those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9).

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He most definitely did that when he drove out demons from men (Mark 5:1-20).

Jesus came to set up His church. He laid the foundation (Eph. 2:20). He gave his apostles the entrance requirements and sent them out to preach. All this was done in order to finish the work the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4).

"It is finished" shows authority. To say "It is finished" is to say no additions are necessary. When man attempts to add, change, or modify the work of Jesus, he is denying the authority of that statement. God's work of redemption is done, it is completed.

Peter noted that we have all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Therefore, nothing more is needed. The plan of salvation is complete. Many today have yet to obey (Rom. 10:16). The old song we sometimes sing says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." Does that song apply to you? Is your salvation complete? What more must you do?