



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – October 29, 2017**

## **Heart to Heart...**

Recently many have received a little book titled, “*The Lord’s Supper – Unity in One loaf and One cup*”. If you didn’t receive one, that’s good! Many have contacted me, and I thought I would teach from this attempt to divide. It had some good teaching on the Lord’s Supper but it has also caused confusion and questions. The “one cup” debate has been on-going for many many years and those who are less familiar with Scripture can be easily swayed into this division in the body of Christ. There are those who insist that multiple cups are against Scripture as “the cup” is the pattern the Lord used. Let’s look at this carefully from Scripture.

The real question should be, “*What did Jesus mean by “the cup” when He instituted the Lord’s Supper?*” Matthew’s record of the event reads as follows: “***While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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.*”** (Matthew 26:26-29)

If “*a cup*”/“*the cup*” to which Jesus refers (also in Mark and Luke’s account) is the container, if it is the pattern for the use of only one container, the next question arises: “*How is it possible for all the congregations of the Lord in the world to use only one container?*” It was easy with Jesus and the twelve on this earth. If the response is that it is permissible to use one container per congregation is to void the argument for one container. It is to argue for multiple containers and then to limit the multiple containers to one per congregation. No such limitation is found in any of these accounts. For anyone to teach “*one cup*” and then permit a “*cup*” for each congregation is having multiple containers which is inconsistent with the “*one cup*” doctrine making exceptions which are not found in any of the gospel accounts. I’m not trying to destroy anyone but get us to use our minds in approaching Scripture seeking for the truth.

The error in all this by those who contend for only one container/one cup is in their understanding or misunderstanding of the word “*cup*” as used in the Lord’s Supper Jesus instituted. In the above account, Jesus gives His definition of what He meant: “*And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them saying, ‘Drink from it all of you; for this is My*

*blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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.*" I have written this passage twice but I want you to see the point Jesus emphasizes. Note that Jesus took a cup, gave thanks for the cup, and instructed His disciples to drink of the cup. Obviously, Jesus did not tell His disciples to drink the container and He did not give thanks for the container. He gave thanks for and taught His disciples to drink the contents of a literal container, the cup which is the fruit of the vine. By metonymy (using the container for the thing contained), Jesus used the cup to signify that which it contained – the fruit of the vine. For instance, we speak of the White House when speaking about the President. That's a metonymy. The same understanding here about the cup speaking of the fruit of the vine. This is very plain in demonstration by Jesus Himself. He took, blessed, and asked His disciples to drink of the content applying the final thought: *"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."* Was Jesus speaking of a container in His Father's kingdom? A cup, the cup was the fruit of the vine and those who attack and divide the body of Christ teach and believe that *"the cup"* to which Jesus referred to was the container which comes into direct conflict with the Lord's teaching on this matter. When we, as the body of Christ, drink "the fruit of the vine" each first day of the week it is clear we have one cup regardless of the number of containers used.

People can be saved using one container to drink from, but to condemn those who use multiple containers hurts the body of Christ and is wrong. Be honest with Scripture and seek His truth. Pray for one another. Love one another and encourage one another to seek the Lord as He is our only hope. Think about it!!!

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