

Participation in the Body of Christ Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 28

1. PARTICIPANTS IN THE ALTAR: The Reformed doctrine of the Lord's Supper – emphasizing the _____ of Christ and the _____ of the Holy Spirit – is rooted deeply in the Old Testament.
 - a. The Apostle Paul's _____ in 1 Corinthians 10 that “you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons” (v. 21) depends upon a theology of the Lord's Supper in which something _____ happens spiritually.
 - b. When we _____ of the Lord's Supper by faith, we _____ a real “participation in the blood of Christ” and “the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:16).
 - c. To explain this, Paul cites the _____ established in the worship of _____ : “Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?” (1 Cor. 10:18)

2. BUT IT MEANS MORE: This involves the strengthening of our _____ (we will focus on the role of the sacrament in assurance next week), “but it means more” than this as well.
 - a. The Lord's Supper is a _____ and _____ of the promises of the covenant (Q&A 75).
 - b. This does not benefit us automatically or mechanically but requires an _____ response of _____ : “to accept with a believing heart” (Q&A 76).

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)
 - c. The Lord's Supper is more than a means of assurance. By his Spirit, _____ is at work in the sacrament.

3. THE BODY OF CHRIST: There is a purposeful ambiguity in the Catechism's use of the phrase “Christ's _____.”

For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Corinthians 10:29)

 - a. The phrase means that we are united more and more to _____.
 - b. The phrase means that we are united more and more to _____ .

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

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)
 - c. As we partake of the Lord's Supper by faith, we experience in part that which we will one day experience _____ : perfect _____ with _____ and each other.