
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Are a plurality of loaves or wafers the proper way to observe communion?**

We have noticed in the past two weeks an important principle taught in scripture – that principle is this: ***Bible silence forbids.***

This means when the Bible is silent about a doctrine or practice, we are forbidden to teach the doctrine or participate in the practice.

For example: According to Heb 1:5, the scriptures are silent about any angel being the Son of God. Therefore, we are strictly forbidden to teach that the Son of God was ever an angel ... because ***Bible silence forbids.***

Again: According to Heb 7:14, the scriptures were silent about priests coming from the tribe of Levi. Therefore, Jesus Himself ... think about this ... Jesus Himself was forbidden to be a priest because ***Bible silence forbids.***

We noticed the Bible is silent about ***instrumental music*** in NT worship. It is therefore forbidden because Bible silence forbids.

We notice the Bible is silent about ***individual communion cups.*** They are therefore forbidden because Bible silence forbids.

LOAVES/WAFERS

Now we come to the subject of plurality of loaves or the use of wafers in communion. In most congregations, when it comes time to observe the communion, there will be a plurality of loaves and most often simply a tray full of individual wafers for each communicant to partake of.

Is this what Jesus and the apostles did and does it make any difference?
That is the question we're exploring in our study this week.

Notice carefully as I read from the NT scriptures:

Matthew 26:26

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Notice carefully: Jesus took bread. This word is singular in the Greek. In other words, Jesus took a single loaf of unleavened bread. Further, the scripture says Jesus "*blessed and broke it.*" That's singular. He did not bless and break "*them*" – as if He had a plurality of objects. Finally, Jesus said, "*Take, eat; this is My body.*" The word "*this*" is singular. He did not say, "*These are My body,*" as He would have said had He used a plurality of loaves.

We know from the grammar that Jesus used only a single loaf of unleavened bread. We also know why He used only one loaf: ***It symbolized His body*** and of course He had only one body.

Let's notice some other passages and see if this conclusion is valid:

Mark 14:22

²² And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Luke 22:19

¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;
²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

In all the NT accounts of the communion, the unanimous conclusion is that Jesus took only one loaf of unleavened bread, He blessed it, broke off a portion to eat and gave to the disciples with instructions to do the same thing He had done. Each disciple was to receive the one loaf and break from it to eat in remembrance of Jesus' sacrificed body.

This is not difficult. However, for some inexplicable reason, churches all over the world feel perfectly free to change the communion from what Jesus did and from what the apostles required. Individual loaves destroy the symbolism of communion. The word "*communion*" means "*sharing together*." However, if each person in the assembly has his own little wafer, no one is sharing anything.

In summary: One loaf is required because the loaf symbolizes the Lord's body and He had only one body. Furthermore, when the disciples all share one loaf together, they fulfill the meaning of the word "*communion*" and show the unity Jesus intended.

Using a plurality of loaves or individual wafers is sinful and without Bible authority. The NT scriptures are silent about a plurality of loaves or wafers and, because Bible silence forbids, they are therefore sinful.

If someone asks for Bible authority for one loaf, I can give scripture for that (1 Cor 10:16-17).

But if someone asks for Bible authority for a plurality of loaves, there is no scripture for that. Bible silence forbids.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.