

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul said Christians would be condemned if they did this in an improper way.
2. This was perhaps the main reason why Christians gathered together on the first day of the week.
3. This is something that Jesus Himself commanded.
4. There is division among the Lord's church over this very issue.
5. What is this issue? It is the Lord's Supper.

I. The Passover feast was ordained by God.

A. God instructed Moses (who then instructed the Israelites) to prepare a meal.

1. This was in preparation for leaving captivity in Egypt.
2. First there was to be a lamb, without spot, prepared for each family (Exodus 12:3-6).
3. The blood of that lamb was to be set on the door posts and cross-beams as a sign for the plague to pass them by.
4. They were to eat unleavened bread with bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8).
5. All leavening was to be disposed of before preparing this meal (Exodus 12:15).
6. They were to eat it fully dressed and ready to go, so there would have been no time to allow bread to rise (Exodus 12:11).

B. Jesus instructed His disciples (who then instructed all Christians) about the Lord's Supper.

1. Jesus instituted this meal while celebrating the Passover feast (Matthew 26:17-29).
2. It was after eating the Passover meal that Jesus instituted this memorial feast.
3. The Lamb is Jesus Himself, a Lamb without spot or blemish, sacrificed for us (1 Peter 1:19).
 - a) Paul called Jesus our Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7).
4. The unleavened bread was used and given the significance of it being Christ's body (Luke 22:19).
5. The fruit of the vine represented the blood of the lamb, which was shed for them (Luke 22:20).
 - a) The blood of this Lamb, properly applied, means the plague of spiritual death will pass over us.
 - b) Since all leaven (fermenting agents) was to be cast out of the house a week before the Passover feast, we can know Jesus did not use alcoholic wine when instituting the Lord's Supper.

C. The three elements of the Passover feast (Lamb, unleavened bread, and blood) are all present in the Lord's Supper (Jesus Christ, the unleavened bread, and the fruit of the vine).

1. It was not then, nor is it now, permissible to change the elements of God's commands.
2. It would be sinful for an Israelite to use leavened bread or a lame lamb in the Passover feast.
3. It is sinful for Christians to use leavened bread or alcoholic wine in the Lord's Supper.

D. It is also important to notice that none of the elements involved speak of a container being important.

1. There are some of our own brethren who insist that unless we use one cup for everyone in the congregation, we are sinning.

2. Jesus said the "cup" was his blood.
 - a) Either Jesus was speaking of the fruit of the vine or He was speaking of the physical cup.
 - b) If it was the literal cup, how are we supposed to drink it?
 - c) We can drink the fruit of the vine, but someone show me how to literally drink a cup!
 3. They say that since Jesus used "one cup" and told them to drink from "it," that we must only use one cup for the Lord's supper.
 - a) This argument fails on many levels.
 - b) First, Luke's account specifically says that Jesus told them to divide the fruit of the vine amongst themselves BEFORE telling them to drink it (Luke 22:17-20).
 - c) Also, if we are to be literal and believe that Jesus means the physical cup, we must find the cup He used that night, because He said "THIS cup."
 - d) Paul said that He (in Ephesus) and the Corinthians drank from the same "cup" (I Corinthians 10:16, 11:27-29), yet they were at least 250 miles apart.
 - e) Also, they would then have Paul ignoring one of the elements of the Lord's Supper: the fruit of the vine, because he only says "cup."
 4. It should be clear to all those without an agenda that When Jesus said drink the "cup," He was speaking of the contents of the cup.
- II. The Passover feast was instituted before the event it commemorated took place.
- A. Moses instructed the people to have this meal before the actual "passing over" took place.
 1. That night, the plague went throughout Egypt, killing all the firstborn except those with the blood on their doors.
 2. But in addition to this, Moses commanded to keep the Passover feast after the actual "passing over" took place.
 - a) This was to be an annual feast which encompassed a week.
 - b) It was called the "feast of unleavened bread" (Matthew 26:17).
 3. This was to be a memorial, remembering what God had done for them.
 - a) God had delivered them from their oppressors.
 - b) God spared them because of the blood of the lamb.
 - c) They were to remember that it was not their own skill or actions that gave them deliverance, but that it came from God Himself.
 4. They were supposed to use the event to teach their children about what God had done for them (Exodus 12:24-28).
 - B. Jesus instructed His people to take of the Lord's Supper before the event it would commemorate took place.
 1. The Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' death (I Cor 11:26).
 2. Jesus was alive when the feast was instituted.
 3. However, He also commanded that the feast be kept after His death.
 - a) The early church (with apostolic approval and endorsement) met on the first day of each week in order to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7).
 - b) Anyone who claims to be the church today must partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of each week.

4. It is a memorial to remember what Christ has done for us.
 - a) Jesus delivered us from the oppression of sin.
 - b) We are spared because of the blood of the Lamb.
 - c) It is nothing that we have done ourselves that gets us that freedom from sin (Ephesians 2:8-9), but it came from God himself (John 3:16).
 5. In partaking of the Lord's Supper, we SHOW the Lord's death until He comes again.
 - a) This shows it to us, reminding ourselves of just what Christ did for us.
 - b) This also shows it to those around us, including our children.
 - c) We should take the opportunity to teach them about the significance of the Lord's Supper.
- III. The Passover feast was instituted 50 days before the Law was given.
- A. After the Passover, the Israelites had been freed from their oppressors, but no law was in effect to govern them.
 1. It was not until 50 days later that Moses received the Law on Mt. Sinai.
 2. Many Bible dictionaries and commentaries point out that one of the purposes of the Day of Pentecost was to commemorate the giving of the Law at Sinai (Smith's Bible dictionary, Fausset, Easton, etc...).
 3. The Passover was on the 10th of Nissan (first Jewish month-see Exodus 12:2), and it was the first day of the the third month (Exodus 19:1-ff) that the Law was given (50 days).
 4. The Law given was new, given from above, and delivered by man to Israelites.
 5. This Law made provisions for Gentiles wishing to live under it (Exodus 12:43-49, Numbers 15:14-16).
 - B. After the death of Jesus, the sacrifice had been made which can free the world of the oppression of sin and Satan, but no law was in effect to govern them.
 1. Many people like to ask "what happened between the cross and Pentecost? What Law were people under?"
 - a) Until the Law of Christ was presented with power (Acts 1:8), it was not in effect.
 - b) The Kingdom of God would come "with power" (Mark 9:1), which did not happen until the day of Pentecost.
 - c) Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, and when that event happened they would begin to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
 - d) This tells us that Jesus did not want the gospel proclaimed until that time.
 - e) They were still under the Old Testament Law until Pentecost (50 days after Jesus' resurrection) when the New Law was proclaimed.
 2. This law was given from above.
 - a) It originated with the Father (Acts 2:33).
 - b) It was spoken to the disciples by the Son (Acts 1:3).
 - c) It was delivered to them in "all truth" by the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15, Acts 1:8).
 3. This Law was delivered by men to Israelites (Acts 2:5).
 - a) The Apostles stood up and proclaimed the New Law to devout Jews from every nation.
 - b) All Israelites were now subject to this new Law.

- c) Anyone who is truly of Israel (spiritual Israel) will follow these laws.
4. Provision was made in the New Testament for Gentiles who wished to live under this law (Acts 1:8; Acts 10, Romans 1:16).
- a) Unlike the Old Testament, all Gentiles are subject to this new Law.
 - b) It is universal.
 - c) It was not very long until there were more Gentile Christians than Jewish Christians!
 - d) Any Gentile who wants to be right with God will follow the Law of Christ!

Conclusion:

1. The Passover, most definitely, is a type of the Lord's Supper.
2. The elements are the same: the bread, the blood, and the Lamb.
3. The results are the same: doing it incorrectly would end in death (see I Cor 11:29-30).
4. They both commemorate the event which set men free!
5. They both were meant to remind men of what God has done for them!
6. They were both instituted, looking ahead to what would happen; they are both celebrated, looking back at what happened.
7. They both preceded a new law being given.
8. Under that Law, it is to be observed!
9. Have you taken advantage of the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ made so you can be set free from guilt? From sin?