

ANABAPTIST DOCTRINE

HOLY COMMUNION

1. Where would Catholics get the idea that the bread and wine physically turn into the blood and body of Christ? Read Matthew 26:26-28.

All Anabaptists rejected the idea that there was a real, bodily presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine. The bread, they said, was just bread, and the wine was just wine. The Lord’s Supper was a memorial to be celebrated by **baptized and disciplined believers**, not a recreation of Christ’s sacrifice to be done by priests on behalf of sinners.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.
3. Why do we celebrate communion, and what is its purpose?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:28-29
5. Who should take part in communions?

6. The Anabaptists believed that when Paul writes about “the body” in this passage, it refers to the body of believers, or the church. Does that change your answer in question #5? Explain.

7.

“[The Supper is] a public sign...of the love in which one brother obligates himself to another before the congregation that just as they now break and eat the bread with each other and share and drink the cup, likewise they wish now to sacrifice and shed their body and blood for one another...” (Balthasar Hubmaier, 1528).

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FOOTWASHING

1. John 13:5-8, 14 Matthew 20:26-27
2. Why do some Christian churches, including the Anabaptists, practice footwashing?
3. _____

Footwashing was not practised in all Anabaptist congregations, but was done primarily in the Netherlands. The practice of footwashing was considered to be an “**ordinance**” primarily because Jesus “instituted and commanded” the practice.

4. ordinance - _____
5. In Jesus’s culture, footwashing was quite common, today it is not. Does that influence our decision to continue this practice as an ordinance?

6. Should footwashing be practised in our churches today?

