

RESPECTING A DYING WISH

"This do in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19

The Lord's Supper, however often it is observed, ought to carry us back to its institution. What a solemn night it was! What a meeting! What a parting! For the apostles it was a night of gloom. The fortunes of the new gospel were at the lowest ebb that night.

As the events advanced, it was quite evident that they were to separate. Christ spoke of His departure by a violent death. Then He instituted an ordinance in express recognition and for the everlasting remembrance of His death.

I. The Duty of Obeying This Dying Wish.

1. Why should we obey it?

(1) Christ commanded it.

"This do." The command is as binding upon us as it was upon the early apostles. This is a plain, definite, straightforward, and emphatic command of the Master. Our obedience to it is a test of our faithfulness to Him.

(2) Obedience helps us.

It begets humiliation, sustains faith, stimulates love, elevates the affections, quickens hope, and inspires activity.

(3) It is the dying wish of our best Friend.

Many of us have treasured souvenirs of those who were once with us, but are not now because God had taken them from us. To view these souvenirs is to

"Sigh for the touch of a vanished hand
And the sound of a voice that is stilled."

We place a real value upon any token of affection which has been given to us as a memorial by some dear departed friend. It becomes sacred in proportion to our love for the one who gave it, and when that love is strong we care far more for it than for other things of incomparably greater value. This ordinance is a memorial of Christ; an outward sign to show how much we love Him. We cannot disregard it and be true to Him.

2. How should we obey it?

Regularly, humbly, gratefully, worthily, and reverently -- humbly realizing the presence of Jesus, and earnestly desiring His blessing.

II. The Design of Observing It.

"In remembrance of Me." What a flood of recollections comes before us as we think of these words. These words were uttered by our Lord in the most solemn and yet the sweetest service that He had with His apostles. Jesus had borne many things, but He could not bear to be forgotten. He wanted to live in their love and memory. After these nineteen centuries have passed He still longs for His memory to be cherished. The design of the Lord's Supper is to refresh our memories with the love of Christ, to bring more vividly to our recollection His sacrificial work so that our love to Him may be strengthened and increased.

Christ commanded us to remember Him because He knows that we are prone to forget Him, He desires to be remembered by us, and He knows that we cannot think of Him without deriving much benefit to ourselves. He wants to be remembered especially in His sufferings. He certainly expects us to remember Him in the spirit of deep humility, grateful love, faithful obedience, and joyous hope. Again we hear Him say in the tenderest tone, "Do this in remembrance of Me."