



#1 Division among Brethren

By
Robert C. Archer



The Position

They teach that when we partake of the Lord's Supper, we **MUST** use only one cup and one loaf/piece of unleavened bread.

Would it be wrong to use one cup and one loaf?

- Not unscriptural – the Bible doesn't specify what container to use
- But is it expedient?
 - For something to be expedient, it must be convenient, practical and advantageous. It must build up and not tear down!

One loaf and one cup is NOT expedient

- **Why not?**

- **Health reasons**

- **Not practical!**

- **What about the time involved?**

What makes it wrong?

- It has **divided** brethren because they make it a test of fellowship!
- It focusses on the wrong thing – **containers rather than the death of Jesus!**



What does the Bible teach?

What does the Bible teach?

■ The *cup* is a figure of speech called, “Metonymy”

- METONYMY is a combination of two Greek words: “META” - Change, and “ONOMA” - name;
- Hence a change of name; the employment of one name or word for another.
(Hermeneutics by D.R. Dungan)

Examples of Metonymy

- They have “**Moses and the Prophets**” - which means the **books or writings of Moses and the prophets**. (Luke 16:29)
- “**The earth was corrupt**” means the **people living in the earth were corrupt**. (Genesis 6:11)
- “**God so loved the World**” (John 3:16-17) He loved the **people in the world**.>

Examples of Metonymy

- Noah “**prepared an ark to the saving of his house...**” (Hebrews 11:7) “**HOUSE**” is the metonymy which stands for his family and not a physical structure.
- Paul writes of the “**House of God**” in 1 Timothy 3:15. He is **not writing about a literal building; he writes about the family of God.**

The cup is another examples of Metonymy

- **The cup is not the container; it is the contents**

- In Matthew 26:27

- Jesus “took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying drink ye all of it.”

- **Did Jesus mean they should drink the container or contents?**

The cup is not the container; it is the contents

- **In Matthew 26:28**

- He says, “For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

- **Was His blood the container or contents?**

Matthew 26:29

- “I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.”
- **Was the fruit of the vine the container or contents?**

Lk. 22:17

- Luke 22:17 (NKJV)

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves;

- The Greek word for “divide” is diamerizo, which means to “divide up” or to “separate into parts” (cf. Mt. 27:35).

- **Were the disciples to divide a container? Of course, not. They were to divide the fruit of the vine.**

1 Cor. 11:26

- **1 Corinthians 11:26 (NKJV)**

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Cor. 11:26

- Those who advocate one cup say there are three elements in the Supper:
 - The bread that represents the Body.
 - The fruit of the Vine that represents the Blood.
 - The Cup (container) that represents the New Testament.

How many items do we see?

- The bread. “Wherefore, whosoever shall eat this bread...
- The cup: “And drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body (bread or body first) and blood of the Lord (vs. 27)

Three items or two?

- Where is the third?
 - Paul does not say one would be guilty of the container of the Lord

Only two items!

- We have therefore ONLY two elements in the Supper
 1. The BREAD which represents the body
 2. The Fruit of the Vine which represents the BLOOD.

1 Cor. 10:16

- **1 Corinthians 10:16 (NKJV)**

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?

1 Cor. 10:16

- Paul is writing this from Ephesus to brethren in Corinth (250 miles away) and he says that he and the brethren at Corinth were sharing the same cup.
- The same container? No, they were sharing the fruit of the vine representing the blood of Jesus and sharing salvation by the blood of Jesus!

Conclusion

- So, from this example, we can see why brethren are divided!
- Brethren divide because they bind where God has not bound!