PRAYER AT THE LORD’S TABLE

In recent years I have noticed a trend that I don’t appreciate. Men who wait on the table when we take the Lord’s Supper are using their own judgment and imagination for their prayers.

Two things I have noticed: 1. The prayers are more and more what I call “general prayers” that do not address the reason for taking the Lord’s Supper. 2. That such prayers many times do not address the body and blood purpose at all.

First, I would mention that the Lord’s Table is not the place for “general” prayers. Those are and have been said at other times during worship so there is no need. It would be redundant and our purpose at the table is to honor the Lord’s death by observing the supper in the breaking of His body and the shedding of His blood. The prayers led at the table should mention the bread and blood.

Second, we are at the table for a specific purpose. “For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, This is my body, which is for you: this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord’s death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.” (1 Cor 11: 23-29 ASV Emphasis mine)

It’s just that simple and that easy to do.

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