

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

215 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

DATE

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## THE ONE CUP CONTROVERSY

1. **What Is It All About?** It's nothing new! It's a small matter in the general scheme of things. There are small religious groups that believe it is sinful for Sunday worshippers to drink the communion wine (ie: fruit of the vine) from any container other than one "shared" cup. Did you know about this practice? \_\_\_\_ Do you know any "One-Cuppers?" \_\_\_\_
2. **Why Do They So Believe?** In the KJV NT the word "cup" is found 31X – 28V. The plural form (cups) is found 2X in (Mk 7) and has nothing to do with the Lord's Supper. "One-Cuppers" say they believe in the principle of adhering strictly to The Word. We agree! We also agree that the autonomy of any God-fearing group allows them the right to adopt the policy of using only one "drinking" container. We disagree when they insist that everyone else is sinning if they use multiple drinking cups. Their teaching isn't entirely consistent with their practice. (Rom 14:22) "*Happy is he that \_\_\_\_\_ himself in that \_\_\_\_\_ which he \_\_\_\_\_.*"
3. **What Is The Communion Cup?** (Mt 26:27) "*And he took the \_\_\_\_\_, and gave \_\_\_\_\_.*" This was the physical container. "*And \_\_\_\_\_ to them, saying, Drink ye \_\_\_\_\_ of it.*" Did Jesus intend for them to ingest the physical container or the contents of the cup? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **The Significance Of The Contents** Jesus identifies the contents (V29) as "*this \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.*" In (V28) he said, "*For this is my \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ testament.*" He said it was "*blood*" in one verse and "*fruit of the vine*" in another. Obviously one verse contained literal language and another figurative (metaphorical) language. Literally it was the juice of the grape; representatively it was blood. They were commanded to drink the literal juice with the understanding that it would remind them of, and represent, his blood shed on the cross.
5. **Drink It All** In (Mt 26:27) Jesus said, "*Drink ye \_\_\_\_\_ of it*" but in (Mk 14:23) the inspired writer says "*and they \_\_\_\_\_ drank of it*" and in (Lk 22:17) he said, "*Take this, and \_\_\_\_\_ among yourselves.*" They obeyed Jesus. But what did Jesus say, and what did they do? *Answer:* They shared in drinking the contents of the communion cup. All of them shared in partaking.
6. **Dividing The Cup?** Did they divide the literal drinking container, or the contents? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the commandment regard the physical cup, or the contents? \_\_\_\_\_ The literal cup would have to be broken or cut into 12 pieces, one for each apostle, in order for it to be divided among them. They didn't do this. They knew what he meant and obeyed him. They shared the contents of the cup.
7. **More On The Contents** In (Lk 22:20) Jesus, emphasizing and reiterating the sacrifice he would soon make, used the present tense in saying, "*This \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ testament in my \_\_\_\_\_, which is shed for you.*" He meant that the contents represented his blood, soon to be shed, that it would seal all the promises and give remission of sins in the soon to come "new" covenant. The drinking container was immaterial as His focus was on the contents. Don't (Mt 23:24) "*strain at a \_\_\_\_\_, and swallow a \_\_\_\_\_,*" completely missing the Master's point.