

October 12, 2016

Question: I would like to know the right element to be used as far as the Lord's Supper is concerned. Should it be grape juice, fermented grape juice, or would either be appropriate?

Answer: On the evening of His betrayal, Jesus met in the upper room with His disciples. It was then that He instituted the Lord's Supper. Being the time of the Passover, He used unleavened bread as a monument to His body, and the cup (fruit of the vine) as a memorial to His blood. Regarding the contents of the cup He said:

"But I say unto you, 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" (Matthew 26:29).

"Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God" (Mark 14:25).

"For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come" (Luke 22:18).

The question is: What exactly is the "fruit of the vine." Does the text demand fermented or unfermented grape juice? First, I would point out that whether fermented or unfermented, it is still the fruit of the vine, or juice of the grape. Second, according to Robertson's **Word Pictures in the New Testament**: "The language here employed does not make it obligatory to employ wine rather than pure grape juice if one wishes the other" (Vol. 1, page 210).

Therefore, there seems to be no Biblical reason to insist on one form of the "fruit of the vine" over the other.