

"If they (Zwingli) can prove to me that the word "is" is the same in this passage (1 Corinthians 11:24) as signifies, I will believe them. They haven't had the temptations I have had about the sacrament. I've often said before about this commotion begun by Karlstadt: I know of no trials of faith which have come from the sects except these two, rebaptism and the sacrament of the altar, because I recognized that if one wishes to make the relation of the bread of God offensive one can do so."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Luther". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'L'.

Commentary: The Lord's Supper is an issue where the Protestant reformers disagreed and continue to be divided today. Luther's teaching about the Real Presence (God is in, with, and under the bread and wine) is based on 1 Corinthians 11:24, *"and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.'"*

In 1525, Ulrich Zwingli (Methodists) wrote: "The meaning of Christ's words becomes perfectly plain to this effect: *'This feast signifies or is the symbol by which you will recall that my body, mine, the Son of God, your Lord and Master, was given for you.'* Zwingli emphasized the word "This" and held that Jesus held the bread in his hand and pointed to himself, illustrating that the bread represents himself.

The reference to Andrew Karlstadt is mentioned because of his "liberal" views. Dr. Karlstadt also taught that the key word in 1 Corinthians 11:24 was "This". Dr. Karlstadt debated with Luther against John Eck in The Leipzig Debate and even lived in his house for two months during the Peasants' Revolt. However, Luther publicly accused Dr. Karlstadt of being a revolutionary! Luther wrote, *"We could say that Dr. Karlstadt robs God of his honor, contradicts the truth, destroys the teaching of St. Paul, and makes the passion of Christ unnecessary, since he denies, in the face of clear and strong texts, that the body and blood of Christ are in the sacrament."* All of this is because of the words, "this" and "is". Remember learning about pronouns and verbs in "grammar" school!

Question: Does receiving the Lord's Supper make you think deeply about God in a personal way?