

The doctrine of the Church of England with regard to the Holy Communion is found in the Catechism ; the order for the administration of the Holy Communion ; and the Articles of the Church.

The fundamental doctrine is that the Lord's Supper is a Sacrament, that is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual Grace ;" that as a Sacrament "it is generally necessary to salvation," because it is "our spiritual food and sustenance," that in it we "verily and indeed" and "spiritually" "take and receive the body and blood of Christ," eat the flesh of Christ, and drink his blood, which, when received "in repentance, and good purpose, and lively faith, and thankful remembrance," "strengthens and refreshes our souls as our bodies may be refreshed with bread and wine. But this "veritable" and "spiritual" reception of the body and blood of Christ is a "partaking of bread," and is "given" by the Priest, and taken and eaten by the communicant, "only after a heavenly and spiritual manner," and the "means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the supper is faith"—the faith of the communicant—and this faith is so clearly a personal act of mind and "spirit that if any man," by reason of extremity of sickness, etc., do not receive the Sacrament (*i.e.* elements) of Christ's body and blood, but truly repents him of his sins, and steadfastly believes that Jesus Christ hath suffered death upon the cross for him, and shed his blood for his redemption, earnestly remembering the benefits he hath thereby received and giving him hearty thanks therefor, he doth eat and drink the body and blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to his soul's health, although he do not receive the Sacrament with his mouth.*

But the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper received by faith is not only a means of inward and spiritual grace, and spiritual food and sustenance, but it is "a sign of the love that christians ought to have among themselves, one to another :† a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ's death ; a pledge of Christ's love ; a source of spiritual "comfort ;" and "a perpetual memory of his death until his coming again." Thus the Church of England regards the Lord's Supper as the highest privilege to which the baptized child of God can be admitted, assuring the faithful receiver that he is "a member incorporate in the Mystical Body of Christ," an heir through hope of his everlasting kingdom, and hence the whole training of the child makes towards the Holy Feast as the ultimate privilege of christian life.

Here in connection with the Holy Feast it is well to notice the views of the Church of England in connection with God's grace in the heart of man. All through its services and teachings it asserts the positive need

Doctrine of
Holy Commu-
nion.

Teaching on
need of God's
Grace.

* Communion of the Sick. † Article 28.