

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF

1. The cup is spilled?

If the cup is spilled one should appropriately begin the cup portion of the Lord's Supper again with a newly filled and blessed cup. Because the cup is a communion in the blood of Christ (I Cor 10:16) ALL must drink from the same vessel. It will not do for half the congregation to drink from a cup that has been refilled. If we were to drop the cup we should begin again by refilling the cup, asking a blessing on it, and allowing all members to drink from that one cup just as Jesus instituted the supper with his apostles. Communion literally means a "joint participation." For a congregation to commune ALL must jointly participate. This would be impossible were we to drop the cup and then merely refill the cup and go on.

2. There is not enough juice to go around?

If the problem is discovered in advance of the communion starting, the presider should add more juice to the container providing the cup is big enough to accommodate all present. If the cup runs out of juice half way around the only alternative would be to begin again with the appropriate amount of liquid just as stated above.

3. The container is not big enough?

If there is such a large audience that the normal sized drinking vessel is not big enough the leader should in advance of the service secure a vessel appropriate in size for all to partake from.

4. Someone makes a disturbance during the communion service?

As tactfully and quietly as possible the leader should try to iron out the difficulty. It may be appropriate to ask other leaders for help in such a situation.

5. I start to serve the cup first, say something wrong or make other mistakes?

Usually there are several leaders in every congregation who can help you overcome mistakes. There are very few mistakes that cannot be corrected so don't worry about them too much. Most Christians understand that leaders and especially new leaders will make mistakes, say the wrong things or do things awkwardly from time to time. This is to be expected. If you make a mistake, just correct it, and go on. No one will think less of you for it. It is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. Remember that even Peter, one of the greatest leaders of the early church, made mistakes so you're in good company.