

Communion
cups.

Communion Cup
Q + A 25-I-2

April 22, 1940

Hoheweg 17
Berne, Switzerland

Dear Brother

A few days ago I received your letter written March 31, making inquiry as to Sister White's attitude toward the individual communion cup, and asking also if Sister White ever took part in a communion service where the individual glasses were used. Sister White has not written anything in regard to this matter, but we have in our files a number of communications written by my father relative to this point, and I shall copy here four paragraphs from a letter which he wrote December 9, 1929:

"I remember very well that this question [that of the individual communion cup] was brought to Sister White's attention several times during 1909 to 1914.

"In response to the questions submitted to Sister White regarding the propriety and advantage of using the individual cup at communion service, Sister White gave uniform reply, that the matter was not of such a character as to arouse controversy in any church. If a church was unanimous in its desire to use the common cup, and if its members understood the risk to health in so doing, that it was their privilege to follow their preference.

"On the other hand, if any church deemed it advisable to use the individual cup, that no one should feel that it was an error. Furthermore, she stated that considering the health conditions which surround us in these later years, she considered it a much safer practice to use the individual cup. This she did herself when attending service where the individual cup had been adopted by the congregation.

"In view of the fact that Sister White was given much light regarding the Lord's supper as celebrated by Christ and His disciples, in view of the fact that she has written much regarding the celebration of the Lord's supper by His people in these last days, covering almost every phase of the spiritual condition that we should be in when we take part in that service, and in consideration of the fact that in none of her books, and in none of her articles, and in none of her manuscripts, and in none of her sermons, did she ever state that in communion service it was advisable to use the common cup, in view of these circumstances and the fact that she gave sanction to the use of the individual cup, and that she used it herself, there is, it seems to me, abundance of evidence that we are perfectly free to use that method which is most favorable to avoidance of the transmission of disease."

I think, Brother Olson, this answers the question in a very conclusive way, and I hope it will prove satisfactory to those who have raised the question in Southern Europe.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary
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