TWO OR MORE CUPS** BUT NOT INDIVIDUALS. PERMITTED?

In the January and February issue of THE REASONER, Bro Mickey quotes from a New Mexico writer," I do not see how you can use two cups in the communion service, and still condemn individual cups; I cannot see the difference. My reply. To paraphrase your statement and apply such reasoning to baptism as you are applying to the Lord's supper, this is what you are saying: I don't see how you could take the confession for baptism, from ten different people in one building, and then baptize them in ten different creeks. You should not practice that according to your belief, but of course you do. The truth of the matter is: When the fruit of the vine is divided into individual cups before thanks, a command by example is broken just as much as when men sprinkle in the place of baptism. But when we divide the fruit of the vine into two, four or more (after thanks) we do more injustice to the scriptures than when you baptize a man in a tank creek or river.. Paul states for us to "drink it". "Drink it" is as much of a command as "Eat it" as long as it is done decently and in order.; and is as much of a liberty as to where and who shall baptize the believers. Those who teach we divide the cup by drinking of it have no more scriptural authority and proof for such, than the sectarians do in stating that faith alone is the equivalent, to faith, confession, repentance, and baptism. There is no choice in that we must teach baptism as the only means to have our sins forgiven, and teach that baptism must be a burial-Acts 22,16,-Ro.6,3-5 and Col 2,12; But as to where and when each candidate will receive this baptism is left up to each candidate. But if we taught that all had to be baptized in the same body of water and all by the same man, then it would be equal to you teaching all must drink from the same cup, after following the commands. If due respect was shown from both sides of this issue we could fellowship each other. When this trouble first started, many brethren preferred to use only one cup after thanks, yet this was a matter of weak conscience and not of faith, and many were respected--but When some die hards without scruples or concern for any one but themselves, took over and cast out every one who would not receive their weak faith, thinking they were the only ones to be respected in regards to a weak conscience or to things related to Ro.14. Editor.

I would like to comment on some of the arguments and criticisms offered above.--First the comparison of several persons requesting baptism in different bodies of water for each individual,--I can see no comparison.. Second, Criticise those that say that Divide this among yourselves" was done by all drinking from the same container. The other writers bear this ,or support this claim. Lu 22,17 uses that expression, "And He took, the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves" We learn that they divided it among themselves by drinking of it. Mt. 26,27 And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it."--Mk.14,23 And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and they all drank of it. 1 Cor.11,23-25 --For as oft as ye drink eat this bread and drink this cup ye do shew the Lords death till He comes.--This cup.-Drink ye all of it.-They all drank of it. Divide this among yourselves--They Divided it by drinking of it. all of them. Proving that only one cup was used.

Argument No.3 When the fruit of the vine is divided into individual cups before thanks, a command by example, is broken--A command by example, Yes ,sure, and when we divide the cup into two or more after thanks, we also break a command by example. Given us as an example. If not, why not?.

Quoting from the article. "When this trouble first started, many brethren preferred to use one cop after thanks, Yet this was a matter of weak conscience, and not of faith, and many were respected.--But then some diehards without scruples, or concern for any one but themselves, took over, and cast out every one who would not receive their weak faith, thinking they were the only ones to be respected in regards to a weak conscience, or to things related to Ro, 14 Editor.

Comments. Further back in this article, the statement was made, "When the the fruit of the vine is divided before thanks, a command by example is broken". The same is true, when divided after thanks into two or more cups Christ set the example in both places. Why condemn one as not of faith and uphold the other as of faith? When both are so plain.

"The use of one cup in the beginning of this trouble, WAS NOT OF FAITH." Editor Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God Ro.10,17--There is no question of faith when we take the example set by Christ, and the commands He gave. TAKE THIS AND DIVIDE IT AMONG YOURSELVES**DRINK YE ALL OF IT--ALL OF YOU DRINK OF IT--THEY ALL DRANK OF IT .

Weak Conscience? My faith is so weak that I build all my hopes on the Commandments and examples left us by our Lord Who is the author and finisher of our faith. He says, Drink it, is as much of a liberty as eat it If done decently and in order?--Now I would like to know how would a person eat it, or drink of it indecently? J.H.Lackey.