

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper or Communion is offered to any **believer** in good standing with the church and others (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

- Jesus never asked his disciples to remember his birth, but He did instruct them to remember His **death** and **resurrection**. Of the two ordinances, baptism and The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

A. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor 11:23-36)

1. It is a simply act. v.23
2. It is a **reminder**. v.24
3. It is a symbol. v.25
4. It is a statement of **faith**. v.26

B. Who should take The Lord's Supper?

- Only those who have believed. Mark 14:22-26

"Therefore, whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgment upon himself." (1 Cor 11:27-29)

Steps to observe when receiving the Lord's Supper:

- 1. Self-examination** (1 Cor.11:27)
- 2. Confessing my sin** (I John 1:9)
- 3. Recommitment** (Rom 12:1)
- 4. Restoring relationships** (Matt 5:23-24)

C. When & how often should I observe The Lord's Supper?

- Jesus never said when or how often to observe The Lord's Supper but he did say to "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). We as a church observe communion once a month at our morning services. The key is to do it in remembrance of Christ.

Water Baptism

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ!

What is baptism?

A move from Death to Life:

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's **burial** and **resurrection**. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the **cross**, His **burial** in the tomb, and His resurrection from the **dead**.

Colossians 2:12-14 MSG "Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God **raising** you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate **wiped** clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross."

A Brand New Life:

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the 'old life' and we rise to walk in a '**new life**'. Baptism is like a wedding ring, it is the **outward** symbol of the commitment you made in your **heart**, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

Here is one simple way to explain baptism:

Baptism is a symbol. It's meant to show the world that you love, trust, and have put your **hope** in Christ.

Why should I consider getting baptized?

Following Christ:

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it... Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he **humbled** himself in obedience to **identify** with us and give us an example to follow.

At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "**You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.**" **Mark 1:9 MSG**

An Act of Obedience:

Water baptism is an act of **faith** and **obedience** to the commands of Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

1. Jesus commands us to be Baptized? Before being taken up into heaven, Jesus sent his followers out into the world to “make disciples.” Note in **Matthew 28:18-20** the two basic requirements for all disciples:

1) Baptize them 2) Teach them to obey

Water Baptism was not a *suggestion*, but a **command** of Jesus!

2. Is Water Baptism really important? On the Birth of the New Testament Church (the Day of Pentecost), Peter preached to the onlookers. Being cut to the heart they asked, “*What shall we do?*” See **Acts 2:38** for Peter's answer. In it he lays out the *three vital elements* of the Christian Life?

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.”

a) Repent b) Be Baptized c) Receive Holy Spirit

3. What if I was already water baptized as an infant? This is a very common question. In Scripture, water baptism is for individuals who have **FIRST** received Christ as Savior. It is only **AFTER** this *spiritual rebirth* that we are commanded to be baptized. For examples, see: **Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 10:47-48; 16:29-34, 18:8**

Throughout Scripture the order is always: **a) Believe and be b) Baptized**

4. Why do we baptize by immersing people under water? The Greek word used in the New Testament for baptism is “**Baptiso**”. It means: **To Immerse, submerge, dip, wash, plunge under.**

It was the same word used to describe the dying of cloth which was immersed into the colored liquid and came out bearing that same color. It also seems quite clear that immersion was the mode of baptism in the first century. **Mark 1:4-5, John 3:23, Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:34-38.**

5. What is the purpose of Water Baptism? Water Baptism openly **identifies** us with Christ in what significant ways? See **Romans 6:1-7, Colossians 2:11-12.**

a. Christ's death b. Christ's burial c. Christ's resurrection

Water Baptism is an Outward SIGN of an Inward Experience!

Just as a wedding ring is an outward sign that a couple are married, so in water baptism we are **publicly** identifying our commitment to Christ. What if a couple were to simply wear wedding rings without actually being married? They would only have an empty **SYMBOL** not the **SUBSTANCE**. So baptism, the wedding ring of the Bride of Christ, doesn't make anyone the bride. It is a fitting outward sign, but without the inner reality of **salvation**, it is void of meaning. See **I Peter 3:20b-21**

6. How is Water Baptism different from the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? The baptism in the Holy Spirit **immerses** us in the Holy Spirit for a power-filled life and is identified

in Scripture as a ***separate experience*** See **Acts 8:12-17**. In water baptism, you are making a public statement of your faith in Christ by obeying His command to be water baptized. You are symbolizing how you have died with Him by being immersed under the water. And in coming up out of the water, you show your resurrection unto a new life in Him!

Practical Items for Those Being Water Baptized

What should I do to prepare for the Baptism Service?

- ✓ Prepare yourself spiritually by prayer, meditating on the Scriptures pertaining to Water Baptism and through confession all sin to God.
- ✓ Invite family and friends to witness your baptism.

What should I bring to the Baptism Service?

- ✓ Bring a large towel to dry off.
- ✓ Bring a dry change of clothes.

How will I be Water Baptized?

- ✓ Some people get nervous about the *process* of Water Baptism. There is no need for this if you understand that the process is quite simple. We don't want this to distract you from the blessing of this beautiful spiritual step in your life.
- ✓ The pastor will call your name at which time you can come forward and give your towel to the attendant who will help you into the water.
- ✓ The person baptizing you will then ask you to hold your nose with one hand and your elbow with your other hand. When you are tipped backward, please bend your knees, this helps the person doing the baptizing. You will be submerged just enough to cover your face and then will be brought back up immediately. Those witnessing your Baptism will often clap or give praise to God after you've been baptized.

Teachers Resource Notes:

In the Ordinances of the Church=Share at start of class

There are two ordinances (authoritative order, decree) that we observe and practice.

A) Water baptism by immersion: all who repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus

Christ are eligible for water baptism (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 10:47; Rom. 6:4).

B) Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. "Do it in remembrance" declares the Lord's death and as such a memorial (1 Cor. 11:24; 1K. 22:19). "You do show the Lord's death" is an act of faith in the atoning work of Christ and as a proclamation (1 Co. 11:26). "Till He comes" is a statement of anticipation of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and as such our hope.

Questions asking if Baptism is needed for Salvation

Requiring anything in addition to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is a works-based salvation. To add anything to the gospel is to say that Jesus' death on the cross was not sufficient to purchase our salvation. To say that baptism is necessary for salvation is to

say we must add our own good works and obedience to Christ's death in order to make it sufficient for salvation. Jesus' death alone paid for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus' payment for our sins is appropriated to our "account" by faith alone (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, baptism is an important step of obedience after salvation but cannot be a requirement for salvation.

Why be baptized?

Baptism is one of the most important practices in the life of the church. The need for baptism is something that most Christians recognize. Jesus emphasizes the importance of baptism when He commanded His disciples to *"Go and make disciples of all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit"* Matthew 28:19

The term baptism comes from a Greek word. The verb Baptizo means; to cover in water, wash, dip, baptize.

Baptism reminds us of:

- Jesus, Death and Resurrection
- Our relationship to God and one another through the Holy Spirit (Ephs. 4:4-6)

Committed Christians interpret baptism in different ways, but most Christians agree that baptism:

- Is central to the Christian faith
- Is not optional but a commandment
- Is often a way for people to show in public their commitment to God
- It unifies Christians as members of the same body
- Has no ultimate significance apart from faith in Jesus Christ

Methods of Baptism

Different methods are used in baptism some groups sprinkle water on the forehead, others pour water from a pitcher over the head, others dip or immerse a person's whole body in water.

Those who practice believer's baptism believe that the practice of immersion (being completely covered with water) more fully displays the symbolic burial of the believer's old life as the believer goes under and emerges from the water, they identify themselves with Jesus' sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-4)

Believer's baptism vs. Infant baptism

One of the main points on which Christian groups differ is about who can be baptized. The following table clarifies the emphasis in perspective that each tradition places on its understanding of baptism.

Believer Baptism
Emphasis on faith as a human response to God's grace
Believer who trust
Obedience and faith of believer
Believer's witness to the world
Old Testament model of sacrifice

We as believers referred to the bible passages that reveal recognition and repentance as a sign of readiness for baptism such as:

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Baptism and Water Cleansing in the Bible

What was John the Baptist doing?

Is the Baptism of John the Baptist practiced the same baptism that is now practiced in the church? No. However, there are several similarities:

- Water baptism is used as a symbol of purification & cleansing. Matt 3:5-6 & 11
- Repentance, turning away from the self-centered life to a God-centered life. Mark 1:4-5
- The practice includes all manner of people, both genders, all levels of society. Luke 3:7-14

There are also important differences between John's Baptism & Christian Baptism

Johns Baptism	Christian Baptism
John the Baptist & his Ministry were the last of Old Testament Order.	With the coming of Christ, a new order begins (Matthew 11:7-15; John 5:33-36)
The Old order is not destroyed, but becomes the basis for the new.	The new order fulfills the old but is not identical to it.
John the Baptist pointed to the coming of the Messianic King.	Jesus the Messiah announces the coming of the kingdom of God.

