

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

II. HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing in the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:4**); a memorial of His suffering and death (**1 Corinth. 11:26**); and is enjoined on all believers until Jesus comes again!

The Lord's Supper

- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—the Passover—with His disciples. **Matthew 26:17**
- It was at this Passover Jesus announced that one of them (Judas Iscariot) would betray Him. **Matthew 26:21-25**
- Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to His disciples and said, "Take eat; this is My body." Jesus identified the bread as His body. **Matthew 26:26**
- Then He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. **Matthew 26:27**
- Jesus identified the cup as, "My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." **Matthew 26:27-28**

A Memorial of His Betrayal, Suffering and Death

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

A Proclamation of His Death and A Promise of His Coming

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

A Time for Self-Examination, Discernment and Judgment

1 Corinthians 11:27-31

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

Water Baptism and Holy Communion

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There are two ordinances of the church, Water Baptism by immersion and Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper. Both ordinances directly and symbolically relate to our salvation through Jesus Christ and His atoning death. While there are many biblical practices the church adheres to, these two ordinances stand out as the command of Scripture for all believers in Christ.

There is nothing mystical about the ordinances. They are symbolic of the true spiritual work of the Lord Jesus in the life of the Christian. Further, these ordinances do not impute grace to the believer. Keeping these ordinances are acts of obedience that will strengthen our faith and commitment to Christ.

I. BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of water baptism by immersion is commanded in the Word of God. Each person who has repented of their sins and believes on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. By being baptized they declare to the world that they have been crucified with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

Why Should I Be Baptized in Water by Immersion?

Water Baptism is:

1. The Example of our Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2. An Act of Obedience

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

3. An Outward Demonstration of Our Repentance

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

4. A Testimony to the World

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

5. The Example of the Apostles

Acts 10:47-48 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

6. A Memorial of Jesus' Death

Romans 6:3-4a Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death...

7. Our Spiritual Identification with Christ's Resurrection

Romans 6:4b ...that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.