

## THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

*"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* Acts 2:41-42 (NIV)

*"Biblical baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and the Lord's Supper.*

*The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming."*

### ❖ Understanding Baptism

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.'"* Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

1. The word baptism comes from the Greek word BAPTIZO which means to PLUNGE.

*"As they traveled along the road, Philip and the Ethiopian came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."* Acts 8:36-38 (NIV)

2. Jesus was BAPTIZED by John the Baptist denoting His ministry to the World.

*"But John tried to deter Jesus, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him."* Matthew 3:14-16 (NIV)

3. Is Baptism necessary for SALVATION or is it a SYMBOL of our Salvation?

*"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized..."* Acts 2:41 (NIV)

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is a gift of God, not by works, so that on one can boast."*  
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

4. When should I be BAPTIZED? As soon as I have BELIEVED.

*"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News... and the name of the Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women."*  
Acts 8:12 (NIV)

Martin Luther – (Founder of the Lutheran Church) "I would have those that are baptized to be fully immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin – (Founder of the Presbyterian Church) "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the early church."

John Wesley – (Founder of the Methodist Church) "Buried with him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

#### ❖ Understanding the Lord's Supper

*"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

#### 1. Understanding the Different views of the Lord's Supper

- The Catholic View – TRANSUBSTANTIATION  
The elements supernaturally turn into the literal body and blood of Christ.
- The Lutheran View – CONSUBSTANTIATION  
The body and blood of Jesus are present with the elements.
- The Protestant View - SACRAMENTAL  
Taking Communion gives you a special, supernatural gifting of grace.
- The Evangelical View - SYMBOLIC  
The Lord's Supper elements symbolize the Body and Blood of Jesus with not special saving effects as believed by other groups.

#### 2. What is the Lord's Supper?

- It is a SIMPLE ACT  
"The Lord Jesus on the night He was betrayed, took bread..."
- It is a REMINDER

“...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’”

- It is a SYMBOL  
“In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’”
- It is a STATEMENT of FAITH  
“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

*“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.”*  
1 Corinthians 11:29 (NIV)