

SUNDAY SESSIONS

BAPTIST
BELIEF & PRACTICE

WEEK 7 - BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian 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 a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in 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 to 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.

- Baptist Faith & Message (2000)

2 Ordinances

1. Baptism: ordinance that is only observed _____ by each person, as a sign of the beginning of his or her Christian life.
2. The Lord's Supper ordinance that is to be observed _____ throughout our Christian lives, as a sign of continuing in fellowship with Christ.

The meaning of the word “baptize”:

βαπτίζω (baptizō), means to _____, to _____, or to _____.

The symbolism of baptism:

That immersion is the proper mode of baptism can also be seen because of the symbolism involved. Water is used by all who baptize because it pictures cleansing from sin and moral purification.

Acts 2:37:42

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38 And Peter said to them, “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. 39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 22:16 “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

Only immersion, however, symbolizes the basis for our cleansing and purification. When one goes under the water and is raised up, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are clearly pictured along with the fact that the believer has died to sin and been raised to new life.

Notes:

Colossians 2:12 “...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Romans 6:3-5 **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”) Water baptism by immersion is a beautiful worship experience reminding the believer that his sins have been cleansed because of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior while also encouraging him to daily die to self and live new.

The New Testament circumstances:

The circumstances surrounding baptism in the New Testament also indicate that immersion is the proper mode.

John 3:22-24 **22** After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. **23** John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized **24** (for John had not yet been put in prison).

Now it should be clear that “*plentiful water*” would not be necessary if sprinkling was the common practice.

[Mark 1:9-11](#) **9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son;[d] with you I am well pleased.”

[Acts 8:35-39](#) **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36** And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”[e] **38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water,** the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Believer’s baptism:

We also believe that the New Testament teaches that only _____ are to be baptized. This, of course, precludes infant baptism (sometimes called "christening"). The New Testament teaches the following facts:

1. One must be a _____ prior to baptism ([Matthew 28:18-20](#));

The Great Commission 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. _____ comes before baptism ([Mark 16:15-16](#))

3. One must believe prior to his baptism ([Acts 16:31](#).; 8:12; 18:8)

4. One must confess Christ before baptism ([Acts 8:38-39](#))

5. _____ precedes baptism ([Acts 2:38](#))

6. Receiving the Word comes before baptism ([Acts 2:41](#))

7. One must receive the Holy Spirit before he is baptized ([Acts 10:47](#)).

Only believers who have experienced regeneration should be baptized.

Not necessary for salvation:

While we consider baptism as important, we do not feel that it is necessary for salvation.

Reasons to be baptized:

Why, then, should a person be baptized by immersion as a believer if it does not save?

1. It is an act of obedience because Christ has commanded us to declare our faith in Him by being baptized ([Matthew 28:19](#); [Acts 8:12](#), [10:48](#)).

2. It shows the disciple that he belongs to Christ and reminds him of what the Savior has done for him when He died and rose from the grave.

3. It demonstrates to believers that God has cleansed them from their sins through Jesus Christ ([Acts 22:16](#); [Colossians 2:11-14](#)).

4. It teaches the believer that he has died to sin and has been raised to walk in newness of life ([Romans 6:4](#)).

5. It demonstrates that a believer who dies will one day be raised from his grave at the coming of the Lord.

6. It is an act after which the believer should join himself to a particular church of Jesus Christ enabling him to faithfully walk in all the ordinances and commandments of the Lord ([Luke 1:6](#); [Acts 2:41-42](#); [5:13-14](#); [1 Peter 2:5](#)).

As we are spiritually baptized into the body of Christ (the Church), so we are outwardly declaring through water baptism that we are joined to that Body (the Church) and are uniting ourselves with the visible expression of it, which is the local church ([1 Corinthians 12:13](#)).

What about being baptized twice?

Our church recommends that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It does not devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized. If you were baptized by immersion in another church since you received Christ, it is not necessary for you to be baptized again.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Being a church _____, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to 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

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

[Luke 22:14-22](#) (ESV)

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

What is it?

The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ on the night before His crucifixion as a _____ representation of the believer's _____ in the benefits of His death, ([Matthew 26:17-30](#); [Mark 14:12-26](#); [Luke 22:7-23](#)).

Jesus observed the Passover, and was crucified at the time of the Passover, ([Matthew 26:2](#), [John 18:28](#)). He is called "Our Passover" ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#)). After His crucifixion, The Lord's Supper clearly took place on the Passover, the Lord's Supper was instituted ____ Jesus, ____ His church, ____ He comes, _____ we might be properly reminded of His death and return ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#)).

Who Partakes of the Supper?

We believe that the Lord's Supper is for _____ only ([John 3:3](#), [Acts 2:41-42](#)).

We invite all to participate with us in the observance of the Lord's Supper who have experienced _____ in Jesus Christ.

We do not believe that saving grace comes to an individual through the Supper, but that participation in the Supper is a sign that one has already received saving grace.

What does it mean today?

The ordinance is primarily summed up in command of Christ, "this do in remembrance of Me" ([Luke 22:19](#)).

It is an act of symbolic obedience whereby members of the Church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and anticipate His Second Coming.

What is Transubstantiation?

According to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, the bread and wine actually _____ the body and blood of Christ.

This happens at the moment the priest says, “This is my body” during the celebration of the mass. At the same time as the priest says this, the bread is raised up (elevated) and adored. This action of elevating the bread and pronouncing it to be Christ’s body can only be performed by a priest. (Systematic Theology)

Baptism as a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper?

Despite differences over some aspects of the Lord’s Supper, most Protestants would agree, first, that only those who believe in Christ should participate in it, because it is a sign of being a Christian and continuing in the Christian life. This is because baptism is so clearly a symbol of beginning the Christian life, while the Lord’s Supper is clearly a symbol of continuing the Christian life. Therefore if someone is taking the Lord’s Supper and thereby giving public proclamation that he or she is continuing in the Christian life, then that person should be asked, “Wouldn’t it be good to be baptized now and thereby give a symbol that you are beginning the Christian life?”

Self-examination

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. ([1 Cor. 11:27-29](#))

When and how often should we observe the Lord’s Supper?

The Bible doesn’t say how often. Normally, CVC celebrates the Lord’s Supper as follows:

- Bi-monthly opportunities for the Lord’s Supper take place during each Sunday service.
- It is also celebrated during each Good Friday service.