

A. The Ordinances of the Church

Note: There are two major ordinances given to the church: **Baptism and the Lord's Supper.**

- These are practices that the Lord Himself initiated and are given to the church for a purpose:

1. Baptism

a. The Meaning

- The word Baptism come from the Greek word "baptidzo". The meaning of baptidzo is to "dip, plunge, immerse, or submerge".
- To sprinkle someone, or pour water over someone, is not being faithful to the word "baptism" itself. It takes away from the meaning of the word.
- There is a significant purpose to a person being baptised.

b. The Command

- The command given for baptism is both for those who are preaching the Gospel and those who are believing the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them ..."

- Though Baptism does not play any part in a person's Salvation it is still a very important doctrine.
- **Acts 8:35-37 confirms this.**

Acts 8:35-36 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. (36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

- The church (the disciples) are commissioned and commanded to baptize.
 - Jesus gave the command to His disciples **collectively, not individually.**
 - The church did not cease with the apostles.
 - The church continues throughout the ages as each God-called man fulfills their duty.
- Jesus prays for his current disciples, but also for His future disciples.

John 17:20 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"

- The command given to baptize **MUST** be done according to the WORD OF GOD!

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

1) ***THE RIGHT PREACHER***

- Jesus gives the disciples authority not only to preach the Gospel, but He also gives them authority to baptize.

Matthew 28:18 ‘And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.’

- The Lord Jesus walked from Galilee to Judea to be baptised by John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:13-15 “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. (14) But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? (15) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.”

- John the Baptist made a right observation. John is the sinner that needs to be baptised by Jesus. Jesus does not agree John’s point, but rather explains the purpose for His baptism.

“... for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.”

- Jesus begins to submit under the Heavenly Father’s Will.
- Though Jesus had no sin, by baptism Christ identifies Himself with sinners, as He will ultimately bear their sins on the Cross.

Matthew 3:16 “And Jesus, when he was baptized... ***Matthew 3:17*** “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- Jesus obviously considered the authority in baptism to be important.
 - Jesus didn’t allow anyone to baptise Him, but rather He went to the right authority to be baptised.
 - i. The Disciples of Jesus Baptized – John 4:1-2
 - ii. The Apostle Peter Baptized – Acts 2
 - iii. The Evangelist Phillip Baptized – Acts 8:35-38
 - iv. The Apostle Paul Baptized – Acts 16:33, 1 Corinthians 1:13-14
 - v. A Certain Disciple named Ananias Baptized Paul – Acts 9:10, 17-18
 - The Lord Jesus commanded Paul to go and Ananias.

Adam Clarke “That he was baptized by Ananias there is every reason to believe; as he appears to have been the chief Christian at Damascus.”

- The Right Authority is a “Bible Believing Church” that teaches sound doctrine.
 - This can be a Bible Believing church outside of the Baptist Movement.
 - Some Baptist Churches will baptize you again if you apart of another denomination.

- Charismatic churches like C3, and Hillsong are not churches at all. They are counterfeit churches and therefore do not have any authority by God to baptize.
- **They are reprobates who are biblically unlicensed.**

2 Corinthians 11:4 “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”

- **Note:** If a person is baptized by a false teacher, I suggest they be baptized again, as the first will not be recognized by God.
- Can you image being baptized by someone like “Simon the Scorer”
- **Side Note:** We never see two people baptize a person.
 - **There are exceptions.** Example: If a preacher needs help because physical impairment.
 - Paul baptized only a few people.

1 Corinthians 1:14-16 “I thank God that **I baptized** none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; (15) Lest any should say that **I had baptized** in mine own name. (16) **And I baptized** also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.”

- There were many people saved under Paul’s ministry, and Paul was not trying to win converts to himself or make a name for himself. Paul’s sole purpose was to preach the Gospel among the gentiles.
- We never see women in Scripture baptizing believers.
 - This is a common practice throughout the charismatic movement. <https://vimeo.com/369492039/4c8968b2e1>
 - The qualifications given were directed to male elders.



2) THE RIGHT PERSON

- **Only believers** are to be baptised. Therefore, this excludes non-believers and infants.
- An infant cannot place his or her faith in Christ.

Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

- There is no command in the Bible for infants to be baptized. The Catholic Council of Mela made infant baptism “law” in the year AD 416.
- Infant baptism does not take the place of Jewish circumcision.
- Some Christians who practice infant baptism do so because they believe infant baptism is the new covenant, equivalent to Jewish circumcision.

- They believe that, just as circumcision joined a Jew to the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants, so baptism joins a person to the New Covenant of salvation, through Jesus Christ.
- This view is totally unbiblical. Nowhere in Scripture do we read a description that baptism is the New Covenant replacement for Old Covenant circumcision.

Galatians 6:15 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

- Someone can get baptised by water, but if they are not born again, the water will do NOTHING for them.
- Shallow arguments are given for infant baptism.
- It is assumed that the household of the “Philippian jailor” had infants who were baptised.

Acts 16:33 “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”

- **Developing doctrine by assuming on Scripture is dangerous.**

3) ***THE RIGHT PATTERN***

- **Note:** Baptism comes after Salvation and is not for salvation.
- i. The Gospel/the Cross of Christ saves, not baptism.

1 Corinthians 1:17 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”

- Baptism plays an important part in a believer’s life, but is it not required for a person’s salvation.
- It is the blood of Christ that washes away sin, not water baptism.
- ii. Those who repent and believe are to be baptized.

Acts 16:30-31 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...”

Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

- iii. The Holy Spirit is given before a person is baptized by water, not after, or through, a person’s baptism.

Acts 10:47 “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”

4) *THE RIGHT PICTURE*

- Baptism pictures the Glorious Gospel.

Romans 6:5 “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”

- Baptism pictures the new life we have in Christ, and publically identifies us as followers of Jesus Christ.

5) *THE RIGHT PURPOSE*

- Water baptism is a statement of submission to the Lord.
- Water baptism is identification with the Lord’s death, burial and resurrection.

c. In whose name do we baptise?

- “Should we be baptized in Jesus’ name (Acts 2:38), or in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)?”

- i. **In Matthew 28:19, it is specifically commanded that we baptise in the Name of the God-head.**

Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

It has been said “Baptizing in the name of the God-Head publicly identifies Christians with the Trinity. They confess that God is their Father, that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour, and that the Holy Spirit is the One who seals and indwells them.”

- ii. **Why then did Peter command to be baptised in the name of Jesus?**

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.”

- This was a strong declaration by Peter that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
- Commanding to being baptised in the name of Jesus indicates an understanding by the person being baptised that Christ is the only Saviour.
- The strong point that Peter was making is that Jesus is the **ONLY WAY** to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Though the emphasis is on the person of Jesus Christ, this does not take away from the responsibility of the person who is baptising, to baptise in the name of the God-Head.

iii. Why did the Apostles baptise in the name of Jesus?

Acts 19:3-5 “And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. (4) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (5) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

- Verse 5 makes it clear that the disciples were baptised in the name of Jesus. This is to affirm and give a clear distinction from all others, such as John's baptism.
 - **John's Baptism** = The Baptism of Repentance which LEADS to Jesus Christ.
 - This means they identified themselves with the ministry of John which was a ministry that prepared the way of the LORD!

Acts 19:4 “Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

- **Moses' Baptism** = The Baptism of Redemption which POINTS to Jesus Christ.
 - This means they identified themselves with Moses (and his ministry), who was a type of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:2 “And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;”

- **Jesus' Baptism** = The Baptism of the Gospel which Jesus Christ fulfilled.
 - **Being baptized in the name of Jesus does not mean they did not baptize in the Father's name, or in the Holy Spirit's name.**

d. Does Baptism make me a member of a local church?

1) Water baptism does not play any part in a person's Salvation, nor does it place anyone into the body of Christ. (Local or Universal)

- Water baptism is the first step of obedience to the Lord.

Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

2) Being added to the church (the body of Christ) takes place at the point of salvation. Acts 2:47 is the proof text.

Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Galatians 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- We are the children of God by FAITH, and we have been baptized (placed) into Christ by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, those who believe on the Lord and are saved are added to the church.

3) Phillip baptized the eunuch. What local church was the eunuch a part of?

- When evangelizing a place that needs a local church, does the evangelist wait until the church is established to baptize the new believers? No, because the people are the ones who make up the church.
- A person who is a new believer should be encouraged to be part of a local church, and continue in the things of God.
- It is the responsibility of the Pastor/Elders of the church to disciple new believers. This is part of the “Great Commission”.

Matthew 28:20 *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

4) It is important to note that a person can be Biblically baptised and still not be born again.

- Simon the sorcerer believed and was baptised biblically by Philip.

Acts 8:13 *“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, **he continued with Philip**, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”*

- Simon followed the Apostles for the wrong reasons (beholding the miracles and signs).
 - People followed Christ for the wrong reason.
- Some for the miracles and others for the food.

John 6:2 *“And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.”*

John 6:26 *“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”*

- **Note:** God can use the wrong motives of people, to show them their sin, for their Salvation.

iii. People will come/join the church for the wrong reasons. (Most common is people are looking for a good spouse, or a social gathering.)

- The Lord will help you discern the state of the flock as an overseer.

John 2:23-25 *“...many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. (24) But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, (25) And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”*

iv. Was Philip negligent when he baptised Simon?

- No, there are some soils/hearts that we may never be able to see. (Only God can see them.)

- People can say the right things, and even do the right things. These are a reality in the church. **Matthew 13:20-21** “But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; (21) Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

5) Who should be accepted into the church/membership?

Salvation Repent and Believe on the Lord Jesus	Baptism Follow the Lord in Biblical Baptism	Church Find a good Bible Believing church	Be Faithful A passion to walk with God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Repentance and Faith ➤ Born again ➤ New Creature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The right preacher – Bible based ➤ The right person – Believers ➤ The right pattern – After Salvation ➤ The right picture – The Gospel ➤ The right purpose – Obedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Believes the great doctrines of the faith ➤ Salvation by Grace alone ➤ Eternal Security ➤ Non - Charismatic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To the Word ➤ In True fellowship ➤ In Breaking of bread ➤ In Prayer meetings

6) The typical church is made up of the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Active Members = Committed Christians 	<p>These Christians love the Lord with all their heart and seek to put the Lord first in all things.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-active Members = Backslidden Christians 	<p>These are struggling Christians, within the church, who are faithful to all the meetings, but are overcome with carnality.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seekers = Desire to be Committed Christians 	<p>These are Christians who have been saved, but never grounded in the truth and desire to find a good Bible-believing church.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendees = Religious Christians 	<p>These are Christians who attend the Sunday morning service, but do not participate in the things stated in Acts 2:42. These people will either start to get serious, or they will soon find another church where they can get comfortable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visitors = Non-Christians (1 Corinthians 14:23-24) 	<p>These are people who are invited to church and are contemplating their soul’s salvation.</p>

e. Practice principles regarding baptism and church membership.

- 1) Make sure you begin to teach new believers on Assurance, Baptism and the Church.
- 2) Make sure new believers give a good, sound testimony, before they are baptised.

- 3) Make sure you continue to disciple new believers thoroughly before they become active members. (They are technically members of the church.)
- 4) Make sure you disciple old believers that join the church that have never been disciplined before. (Make sure these people have left their current church in a Biblical way.)

f. Passages used for baptismal regeneration.

- Baptismal regeneration believes that baptism is necessary for salvation.
- They believe that regeneration does not occur until a person is baptised by water.
- Baptismal regeneration is held by multiple Christian denominations.
- The common verse is found in Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, and John 3.

1) Acts 2:38

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.”

- The Apostle Peter is not indicating that water baptism washes away sin, but rather he is beseeching people to repent and turn to Christ and then be baptised.
- Only true believers and saved people are to be baptised. This truth can be affirmed by Acts 8:36-37.

Acts 8:36-37 “...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest...”

2) Mark 16:16

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...

- The quickest way to reconcile this verse is to finish reading the verse.

Mark 16:16 “...but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

3) John 3:5

John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

- This is not in any way dealing with water baptism. The context of the passage is talking about the second birth, in comparison to the first birth.

*****Next week we will look at the Lord's Supper *****