

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

The Ordinances of the Church

The truth we're focusing on tonight is:

THE TWO ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH:

1. WATER BAPTISM
2. COMMUNION

We believe that the New Testament emphasizes RELATIONSHIP over RITUAL.

- An Ordinance is an established rite or ceremony practiced by all within a community.
- These two ordinances are established by the King of the community called the Church, and He expects us to practice them not because we have to but because we want to.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, *it is the gift of God—not by works*, so that no one can boast.

- The purpose of Communion and Water Baptism ordinances is NOT to obtain salvation.

Three reasons we practice the two ordinances:

1. King Jesus has commanded us.
2. We are part of Christ's community of faith - the Church.
3. To Identify with Jesus.

Water Baptism

The method of baptism:

- We believe in water baptism by immersion.

Three reasons we believe in baptism by immersion:

1. The Greek word *baptizo* literally means “to submerge.”
2. The Scriptures exemplify baptism by immersion.
3. The method fits the symbolism of the action.

What does all this mean for us?

1. We must obey King Jesus’ command to follow His example of baptism as a public testimony that we are united with Him in His death and burial and raised to a life of service and worship to God.

Mark 8:38 (NLT)

“If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

2. We must obey King Jesus’ command to make disciples and baptize them into the worship and service of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Holy Communion

Both Baptism and Communion were instituted by Christ and symbolize our relationship with Christ.

Each ordinance represents a different aspect of our relationship with Christ:

- Since baptism is associated with our new birth, we must be baptized only once.
- Since Communion represents our daily dependence on Christ, we do it often.

Three important truths about the ordinance of Holy Communion:

1. The bread and the fruit of the vine are emblems representing the body and blood of Jesus.

2. Communion is about the past, present, and future.

- Communion looks to the past in gratitude and celebrates Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (MEV)

23 I have received of the Lord that which I delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread.

24 When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take and eat. This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He took the cup after He had supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- Communion looks to the present in praise that Christ lives in us as a family, helping us grow in love, making us more like Him, and giving us a taste of heaven.
- Communion looks to the future in hope as we anticipate His return for us and the coming of His Kingdom to earth.

Matthew 26:29 (MEV)

"I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:26 (MEV)

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

3. Communion is about not forgetting.