



Articles of Faith Statement

We believe that the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper were and are significant to the church, and within the lives of those who have faith in, and have committed themselves to Christ. Baptism is an outward expression of a believer's faith. The Lord's Supper is taken in remembrance of the sacrifice made by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and open to all those who have recognized their sinful state and have accepted Christ. We believe that immersion was the common practice in the early church, but circumstances regarding health, age, or other extraordinary situations may require alternate forms of water baptism. In the end, it is repentance and the desire of one's heart, not the form of a physical act that fulfills Christ's instruction to mankind. The mode of baptism and partaking of the Lord's Supper, therefore, are to be left to the leading of the Holy Spirit and understanding of each individual.

Key Scriptures

- *"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'" — Matthew 26:26–29 (NIV)*
- *"Peter replied, '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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.'" — Acts 2:38–39 (NIV)*
- *"Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The eunuch answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." — Acts 8:37–38 (NIV)*

Insights

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two ordinances given by Christ to His church. They do not save us, but they visibly express the saving work of Christ in the life of a believer.

In Acts 2:38–39, Peter connects baptism with repentance and forgiveness of sins. Baptism is a public declaration of faith—an outward testimony of an inward transformation. The early church regularly baptized those who professed faith in Christ, often immediately after conversion. Acts



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8 shows this with the Ethiopian eunuch: faith came first, then baptism followed as a sign of commitment.

The Lord's Supper, instituted by Jesus in Matthew 26, is a memorial meal that points to His sacrificial death. The bread represents His body, given for us, and the cup represents His blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. In taking the supper, believers look back to the cross, look around at the unity of the body, and look forward to Christ's return.

These ordinances are not mere rituals but acts of obedience, worship, and faith. Baptism identifies us with Christ and His people. The Lord's Supper renews our gratitude, humbles us before the cross, and strengthens our fellowship with Christ and one another.

Application

Baptism and the Lord's Supper invite us to live out our faith tangibly. If you have trusted in Christ but not yet been baptized, consider taking this step of obedience. It is a powerful testimony to others and a personal milestone in your walk with God.

For those who partake in the Lord's Supper, do so with reflection and sincerity. Use it as a time to examine your heart, repent of sin, and renew your gratitude for Christ's sacrifice. Don't let it become routine—each time is a fresh reminder of His love and grace.

Both ordinances call us to a life of visible faith. Baptism declares, *"I belong to Christ."* The Lord's Supper declares, *"I continue in Christ."* Together, they shape us into a people who remember, obey, and proclaim the gospel until He comes.



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1. Why is baptism described as an outward expression of inward faith?

2. How does the example of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 help us understand baptism's significance?

3. What does the bread and cup in the Lord's Supper teach us about Christ's sacrifice?

4. How can we guard against letting the ordinances become routine or empty traditions?

5. What next step is God calling you to take in response to baptism or the Lord's Supper?
