

16 DECLARATIONS OF FAITH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

VI: Our church practices 2 ordinances

Our churches have 2 ordinances that were ordained by Jesus Himself. Baptism in water and Holy Communion. Some churches use the term “sacraments” instead of ordinances. Using the word “sacraments” may lead to ideas that spiritual work takes place in a person when the sacrament is received or experienced. Our church chooses to call water baptism and Holy Communion ordinances because they are religious practices ordained and established by Jesus that have deep symbolism and are emblematic of our faith

Holy Communion

Communion: was instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself, on His last night with His disciples. Since then the Church has taken communion in remembrance of the Lord.

- Churches take communion at different times
 - Some once per month, some every three months, some once a year, some every Sunday, some during weekday services,
 - Calvary Chapel takes communion every first Sunday of the month.
 - All are OK, there is no appointed time from the Bible to have communion.

Communion is an invitation from Jesus to us

Luke 22:7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. **8** And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.”

9 So they said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare?”

10 And He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. **11** Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ **12** Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.” **13** So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the [b]twelve apostles with Him. **15** Then He said to them, “**With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;** **16** for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide *it* among yourselves; **18** for I say to you, [c]I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

20 Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

- the Lord Jesus on the last night with His disciples, Asked Peter and John To go and prepare the Passover dinner
- Let’s keep in mind that Jesus knew that, that night He would be arrested and the following day He would go to the cross to die for our sins
- I would like to point out the tremendous pressure the Lord was in,
 - We get caught up with the miracles, and that He is God. We sometimes forget that He was in the form of a man.

- That He was not a superhuman He was the form of a man **Hebrews 4:15** *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
- *With Fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;* this is the last night He will be with His disciples and will institute communion on the **Passover dinner**
- Passover was a celebration to remember the deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt, **[context!!!!]**
- Israel celebrated Passover every year but it was all pointing to the lamb of God who is Jesus

Elements of communion

1. The Bread which Jesus said *“My body which is broken for you”*
2. The Wine The fruit of the vine represents the *“new covenant in my blood”* **[the Blood of Jesus]**.

There are different views of communion

- **Transubstantiation:** from the Catholic Church, the belief that there is a substantial change of the elements so that the bread and the wine change substance and become the literal body and blood of Jesus.
 - we do not believe this
- **Consubstantiation:** Lutheran church, the belief that there is a real presence of the risen Christ with, in, and under the communion elements,
 - we do not believe this view
- **Most Christian Pentecostal churches like our Calvary Chapel AG believe:** that it's all **emblematic/symbolic**, they speak of, they point to, they are a living Sermon instituted by the Lord that reminds us of what Jesus did on the cross.
 - Nothing less but nothing more

Communion is for believers

- 1 Corinthians 11:27 *herefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and [f]blood of the Lord.*
- The lord's table should never be taken commonly
- Communion should never be approached without a full understanding of what it represents, what it proclaims, and the attitude in which we must approach the Lord's table
 - For this reason, communion is for believers,
 - If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior you should not take communion
 - For this reason, small children are not invited to take communion until they have an understanding of what Jesus did and who He is

Remembering

- Communion is to be done in remembrance of Jesus *“in remembrance of me”*
- His perfect obedience, and Sacrifice for us
- When I come to the lord's table I'm reminded of this

- His body that was broken, and the blood that was poured out for ransom (payment) for our sins
- Also remembrance of Personal experience. What He has done for me in my life....
 - His forgiveness, His Holy Spirit, His witness, His presence, His deliverance, His healing, His provision, his presence, His peace, His Joy mercy, grace, love

Self Examination

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

- Whenever you come to the table ask yourself some honest questions
- Examine yourself, Am I walking with the Lord, Am I fighting the good old fight of faith, Am I being a real Christian, Am I being obedient, and ultimately Am I representing God
- If you are walking with Christ, not perfect, not sinless, but seeking first his kingdom....
- You should come to the Lord's table
- When we come to the Lord's table we are saying we are sinners in need of the mercy and the grace of Jesus
- The Lord's table is for sinners who are drawing near to God
- Some people say I'm not sure I'm good enough to take communion. No one is
- It's self-righteous people who have no business in the Lord's table
- But if you believe and need God's grace and mercy..... Come to the Lord's Table

Testimony

It is to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

Every time we come to the Lord's table for communion we give testimony of His death and give Testimony that He is coming back, And we are waiting for Him

There are so many blessings at the Lord's Table

There is healing and peace at the Lord's table

Took bread gave thanks and said this is my body with is broken for you

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded[k] for our transgressions, He was [l]bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes[m] we are healed.

- Isaiah speaks of His body that was wounded and bruised
- There's divine healing
- There is peace at the Lord's Table

There is forgiveness at the Lord's table

- **1 Corinthians 11:25** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood.
- **1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - The blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin
- **Isaiah 1:18** "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

- The stain of sin, the consequences of sin, and the weight of sin have been removed
- **Hebrews 10:17** “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” **18** Now where there is [e]remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin.
- The Lord remembers our sins no more

There is revelation at the Lord's table

Luke 24:28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. **29** But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. **30** Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him, and He vanished from their sight. **32** And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

- Some things that burn in your heart are revealed at communion
- There are things that no preacher can tell you only in communion with Jesus you will understand
- At the Lord's table

There's fellowship at the Lord's table

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

The best fellowship is done at the table

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies
- Regardless of my enemies being present, I can still have fellowship with my father

There's divine protection at the Lord's table

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

- The enemies may be present but I will be still and know that He is God
- This is the reason we can go through the valley of the shadow of death

There's anointing at the Lord's table

You anoint my head with oil

- Divine help, divine enablement, power from God.

There's overflowing joy at the Lord's Table

My cup overflows and runs over

- Wine is a representation not only of the blood of Jesus but Joy

- There is. No joy like the joy that comes with Jesus, it is an awakening of the soul and spirit

There are blessings at the Lord's table

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

His goodness will follow me

Deuteronomy 28:2 All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you pay attention to the voice of the Lord your God Blessed in the city Blessed in the field Your children will be blessed Blessed coming in and blessed going out You will be the head and not the tail you will be on top

- His mercy will follow me
- Where ever I go He will be there and He will be good to me
- Where ever I go He will be there and He will be merciful with me
- I want his goodness and his mercy
- HIS MERCY IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

There is a desire for the House of God t the Lord's table

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

- When we have communion and we understand it
- We too desire the presence of God
- We too desire His house

Psalms 42 As the deer [b]pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and [c]appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night,

Better is one day in the House of the Lord than a thousand elsewhere

The significance of this doctrine

Water baptism and communion are not simply religious customs. Both embody the central message of the Christian faith. Water baptism is a one-time event (*we don't see anyone in the Bible being baptized twice*) in which the new believer announces publicly that they are now a child of God who has identified with Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection. Communion is a periodic [often monthly] reminder that the believer has received free salvation through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ both ordinances focus regular attention on the central truth of Christianity

Let's take Communion