

## Baptism and Communion

Our churches have two ordinances that were ordained by Jesus Himself. **Baptism in water** and **Holy Communion**. They are religious practices ordained and established by Jesus that have deep symbolism and are emblematic of our faith

### Baptism is a command of the Lord

**Mark 16:16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ as their personal savior and Lord must be baptized.

### Baptism in water

- Even though scripture is clear about water baptism, many believers are still confused about it.
- There is only one baptism, **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
  - Different examples of unbiblical baptisms: sprinkled, infant, water hose, and even internet baptism
  - These kinds of baptisms are not Biblical
- There is only one form of Biblical baptism
- Baptism is by full emersión. **Baptizo**: to immerse, plunge under, or submerge. **Matthew 3:16** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

### Why completely submerged? Baptism has profound symbolism

- **Romans 6:4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- Baptism is compared to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
- As we go underwater, it symbolizes death to sin and the old way of living
- As we rise out of the water, it symbolizes a resurrection to a new life in Jesus Christ
- *Without fully submerging in water, this profound symbolism is lost*
- Jesus showed us the way. He is our example to follow, **1 Peter 2:21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

### Is baptism necessary for Salvation?

- No... **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- However, our obedience does matter; it is proof that our faith is genuine. **James 2:26** Faith without works is dead.
- Baptism is an act of obedience to the example and command of Jesus.
- **James 4:17** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin. So if we know that we should be baptized and refuse to do so, we are being disobedient, and that is a sin.
- If we believe and put our full trust in the Lord Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we should obey His commandments,
- **If we refuse to be baptized, then in truth, we have not yet believed.**

### Teaching goes along with baptism

- **Matthew 28:20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.* Amen.

- You need to know the basics about Jesus, who He is, what He did, and why.
- You don't have to know everything before being baptized, but it is important to know the foundations of the Gospel.
- Sometimes, it is NECESSARY to unlearn false teachings and learn true biblical teachings before being baptized

### Repentance and baptism

- To truly believe in Jesus also means that you have repented of your sins
- Baptism is a **public declaration** of our faith in Jesus and repentance from our sins
- As we have mentioned, believing in Jesus means forsaking our old way of living, “dying to the old life of sin.”
- **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,.. Repentance involves confessing and turning away from our sins
- Repentance must happen before baptism. **If there is no repentance, you will just be a wet sinner**

### There was an urgency for water baptism

- In the Early Church, there was **no such thing as an unbaptized Christian**. Everyone who believed was baptized almost immediately.
- There is no indication in Scripture that anyone was put on a probation period before being baptized in water.
  - For the church in the book of Acts, Baptism was part of their initial declaration of Faith in Jesus Christ
  - This was because in Biblical times, a person who converted from one religion to another was often baptized to identify the conversion. Baptism was the means of making a decision public. Those who refused to be baptized were saying they did not truly believe. So, in the minds of the apostles and early believers, the idea of an unbaptized believer was unheard of. When a person claimed to believe in Christ yet was ashamed or unconfident to proclaim his faith in public, it indicated that he did not **have true faith**.

### Baptism and the church.

- Could I be baptized and not join a church?
- The biggest reason for baptism is that baptism joins us to Jesus Christ; however, baptism also joins us to His body, that is, the church
- **Colossians 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church. God called us to be a part of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. **Colossians 3:15** You were called in one body;
- **We cannot** be united with Christ and not be a part of His Body (church)
- It's like saying I'll marry you but will not live with you, or saying I'll marry you but I will not take care of you.

### Rebaptism

- There is only one example in the book of **Acts 19:2** he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” **3** And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” **4** Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” **5** When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

- They were **rebaptized** because they were not properly baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They didn't know that Jesus had come
- In the same way, when someone was not baptized through the true biblical foundation, that is a good reason to be rebaptized
- Re-baptism is appropriate for those who were baptized with an unbiblical method: Babies not fully immersed in water, not in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

**Baptism is a powerful, beautiful act that symbolizes the new faith, repentance,  
Forgiveness and new life in Christ Jesus**

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### **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 are once per month, some every three months, some once a year, some every Sunday, some during weekday services,
  - Calvary Chapel takes communion on the first Sunday of the month and on special occasions
  - All are OK, there is no appointed time from the Bible to have communion.

### **Communion is an invitation from Jesus to us**

**Luke 22:14** When the hour had come, He sat down, and the 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;**

**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.

- This is the last night He was with His disciples, and would institute communion at the **Passover dinner**
- Passover was a celebration to remember the deliverance of the people of Israel from Egypt
- Israel celebrated Passover every year, **but it was all pointing to the lamb of God: 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 is biblically **incorrect**
- **Consubstantiation:** The 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 is biblically incorrect
- **Most Christian Pentecostal churches, like our Calvary Chapel AG,** believe that it's all **emblematic/symbolic**; it speaks of, reminds of, points to what Jesus did on the cross, and points to His return

- Nothing less, but nothing more

### **Communion is for believers**

- **1 Corinthians 11:27** Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- The Lord's Table should never be taken lightly
- Communion should never be approached without an understanding of what it represents, what it proclaims, and the attitude with 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, His perfect life, teachings, and Sacrifice for us
- His body was broken, and the blood 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 you are seeking first his kingdom.... You should come to the Lord's table
- The Lord's table is for sinners who are drawing near to God
- Some people say, "I'm not good enough to take communion." No one is
- 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 proclaim that He is coming back, and we are waiting for Him

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 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