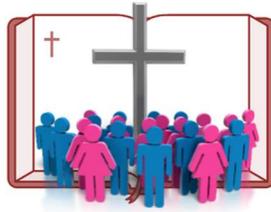


Being Baptist

"You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."
Psalm 61:5



Lesson 6

“DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE AND AT THE TABLE” – PART TWO Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion Part Two: Communion/The Lord’s Supper

LESSON AIM: To explain the biblical doctrine of Communion, or The Lord’s Supper, including its nature, meaning, elements, and participants.

- **WELCOME & PRAYER / LESSON INTRODUCTION / THEME VERSE / LESSON AIM**
- **QUICK REVIEW: LESSONS 1-5**
- **PART 1: THE BAPTIST DOCTRINAL HALLMARKS (Continued)**
 - The Baptist Distinctives
 - B – Biblical Authority & The Lordship of Christ
 - A – Autonomy of the Local Church
 - P – Priesthood of Believers
 - T – Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
 - I – Individual Soul Liberty
 - S – Saved Church Membership
 - T – Two Offices: Pastors & Deacons
 - S – Separation of Church & State
- **FOURTH DISTINCTIVE: “T” = TWO ORDINANCES: BAPTISM & COMMUNION**
 - Important Reminder: Understanding “Ordinance” vs. “Sacrament”
 - Sacrament: *“Formal religious act or rite conferring a specific grace on those who receive it”*
 - Ordinance: *“Authoritative rule, law, decree, or command” (an act that Jesus commands)*
 - ✓ Three-Fold Test of a New Testament Ordinance
 1. Initiated by Jesus During His Earthly Ministry (The Gospels)
 2. Practiced by the Early Church (Book of Acts)
 3. Taught as a Divine Command for the Church (New Testament Epistles)
 - Meaning of New Testament Communion (The Lord’s Supper)
 - ✓ Meaning of Communion

- Various Names: Communion, The Lord's Supper, The Last Supper, The Lord's Table, The Breaking of Bread, The Eucharist. No matter what we call it, we need to understand it.
- Key Reference: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- Description: Communion/The Lord's Supper is a symbolic meal using the common elements of bread and the fruit of the vine to memorialize the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and, thus, remind believers of His sacrifice for their sins.
- Compare & Contrast: Believer's Baptism signifies *union* with Christ, which happens once; thus, baptism is not to be repeated. On the other hand, The Lord's Supper pictures *communion* with Christ, which is continual; so, the ordinance is frequent.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Like baptism, the Lord's Supper is not regarded by Baptists as a sacrament. It does not save, it does not help to save, nor does it impart any of God's grace to the soul. It is a memorial supper—pure and simple. We are commanded to use it to remember Christ's death until He comes again" (Steuart McBirnie, *Instruction in the Baptist Faith, 1955*).

- What Communion Is Not: Sacrament / Transubstantiation / Consubstantiation?
- What Communion Is:
 - A Memorial Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
 - A Divine Command (Mt. 26:26-27 [“eat”...“drink”]; 1 Cor. 11:24-25 [“do this”])
- Purposes of Communion
 - Remembrance of the Person of Christ (1 Cor. 11:24-25: *“in remembrance of Me”*)
 - Covenant Sign of the New Testament (Mt. 26:28, Mk. 14:24; Lk. 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25)
 - Display of the Sacrificial Death of Christ (1 Cor. 11:26)
 - Time of Worship & Fellowship for Christ's Church (Acts 2:46-47; 1 Cor. 10:17)
- Important Questions About Communion
 - *What Are the Elements of Communion?*
 - ✓ The Bread & The Cup—Symbolizing the Sinless Body & Blood of Christ
 - *Who Should Participate in Communion?*
 - ✓ The Lord's Table Is for The Lord's People—Saved, Baptized, & Walking in Fellowship
 - *How Often Should We Observe Communion?*
 - ✓ No Set Frequency—Simply *“As Often”* As You Do It, You Proclaim the Lord's Death (1 Cor. 11:26)
 - ✓ *What Is the Proper Model of Offering Communion?*
 - ✓ Open Communion...Closed Communion...Close Communion...

● **SUMMATION / PREVIEW OF LESSON 7 / QUESTION & ANSWER TIME / BENEDICTION**