

**Theology 2**  
**Church Government & the Ordinances**  
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*Church government and the ordinances are two areas where the church demonstrates a great deal of **unity and division** at the same time. While Christians overwhelmingly agree that order and ordinances are necessary, they disagree sharply on the meaning and practice of both.*

**Forms of Church Government**

- 4 Main Forms
  - Episcopal – Authority resides in the bishop, various levels of bishops (353)
  - Presbyterian – Key officer is the elder (session, presbytery, etc. – 353-354)
  - Congregational – Two key concepts (autonomy & democracy – 354)
  - Nongovernment – emphasis on Holy Spirit’s leadership (Quakers)
- So what is the biblical form of church government? Depends on who you ask!

**Baptism**

- Most Christians agree that **baptism and the Lord’s Supper** are the only two ordinances of the church. Some denominations add foot-washing to the list (John 13).
- The Basic Views of Baptism
  - Baptism as a Means of Saving Grace – Sometimes referred to as “baptismal regeneration.” There is no remission of sins and consequently so salvation is someone is not baptized. (Catholicism, Lutheranism, Church of Christ, etc.)
  - Baptism as a Sign and Seal of the Covenant – This view is directly tied to “covenant theology,” thus it is no surprise that it has found a home among Presbyterians. Circumcision was OT sign of the covenant, baptism in NT.
  - Baptism as a Symbol of Salvation – This position is commonly referred to as believer’s baptism (see handout Baptism 101).

**The Lord’s Supper**

- A **commemoration of the Lord’s death** until He comes (1 Cor. 11:26)
- Major Views of the Lord’s Supper
  - Roman Catholic/Transubstantiation – The elements become the actual body and blood of Christ. The essence/substance of the elements are changed, but the accidents (physical qualities) of the elements remain the same.
  - Lutheran View/Consubstantiation – Body and blood of Christ are present “in, with, and under” the bread and wine.
  - Reformed View (Calvin) – A spiritual presence of Christ in the elements. Partaking the elements “seals” one’s salvation (more covenant theology).
  - Zwinglian View – The elements are only symbols. By partaking, a believer commemorates the Lord’s death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:23ff).
- Issues That Need to be Addressed (365-368)