

# Ordinances of Christ



## Bible Study Pathways Lesson 25

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What ordinance did Jesus and the apostles consider as being an important statement of belief in God? \_\_\_\_\_



**Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. -- See also Hebrews 6:2, Acts 2:41 Ephesians 4:5 declares there is "One Lord, one faith, \_\_\_\_\_ baptism."**



What are we supposed to do before being baptized? \_\_\_\_\_



**Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**



Christ made baptism the entrance to His spiritual kingdom.... Those who receive the ordinance of baptism thereby make a public declaration that they have renounced the world, and have become members of the royal family. (Our High Calling, pg. 157) See Gal. 3:26-29



What directions does the Bible give for the manner of baptism?

- ✓ **Matt. 3:13-16; Mark 1:9, 10** Jesus gave us an example.
- ✓ **John 3:23.** Much water required.
- ✓ **Acts 8:36-38.** Both candidate and administrator go down into the water.
- ✓ **Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:39.** After baptism they come out of the water.
- ✓ **Matt. 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- ✓ **Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**A Story to Ponder...** One day, a man and his son were discussing how baptism should be conducted. The father thought that sprinkling was sufficient, but the son insisted that the Bible says we are to be "buried with Him by baptism" and this requires immersion. As the day progressed they went about their chores and the father forgot about the conversation. Finding one of their chickens dead, the father asked his son to bury it. But upon passing by later he found the chicken still above the ground with just a little dirt sprinkled over it. Finding the son inside, the father said, "I thought I told you to bury that chicken."

"I did", said the son with a mischievous grin on his face.

"Then why did I find it, in the path with only a little dirt sprinkled on it?" the father questioned.

"I thought you said sprinkling and burying were the same thing?" replied the son. The son's point was finally understood.



Does the Bible give any direction given for the age of baptismal candidates?



**Matt. 28:19, 20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.



The word "teaching" implies baptism at an "age of accountability and understanding" rather than baptism of infants. Jesus was "dedicated" as a baby (Luke 2:22-39) but He was not baptized until age thirty (Luke 3:21-23)



What other ordinance did Jesus command us to celebrate as a reminder of our baptism? \_\_\_\_\_



**John 13:14, 15** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you  
**John 13:10** Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

The foot washing is sometimes called "the ordinance of humility"



**1 Peter 5:5** ...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (See also Matt. 20:25-28; 23:8-12)

Following Christ's example, this ordinance is often observed in connection with "the Lord's Supper" or "Communion" (See 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:20)



**1 Cor. 11:23-26** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.



The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are two monumental pillars.... Upon these ordinances Christ has inscribed the name of the true God. (Lift Him Up, pg. 302)



The Lord's Supper involves what two essential elements? \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_



**Matt. 26:27-29** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (Also Mark 14:23-26, Luke 22:20)  
**Luke 22:19** And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. (Also Mark 14:22, Matt. 26:26)



The bread is a symbol of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. Unfermented wine [grape juice] is a symbol of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

For further study on why unfermented grape juice should be used, consider:

**Isaiah 65:8** "Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it..." Prov. 23:29-32, Lev. 10:9-11, Prov. 20:1, Isaiah 5:11, Romans 14:21, Eph. 5:18



The bread and the wine represent the body and the blood of Christ. As the bread was broken, and the wine poured out, so on the cross Christ's body was broken, and His blood shed to save us. By eating the bread and drinking the wine, we show that we believe this. We show that we repent of our sins,



and that we receive Christ as our Saviour. (Story of Jesus pg. 98)

**John 6:53-56** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.



What essential preparation should be made for the Lord's Supper?



**1 Corinthians 11:28, 27, 29** "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." For "whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

### CONCLUSION

For those who are of the age of understanding, Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance into His spiritual kingdom. He also instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper and the foot washing service "in remembrance" of His sacrifice on the cross as well as a reminder of baptism. These ordinances should be preceded by thorough heart searching. (Psalm 139:23, 24)