

BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER: SIGNS OF GOD'S WORK

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the essential, Christ-ordained way of showing to yourself, the church, and the world that you believe in Christ. The New Testament knows of no unbaptized professing believer. The word "baptize" means "to immerse."

1. In **Matt 28:19**, whom does Christ want to be baptized? In whose name?

2. Who is baptized in **Acts 2:41**? To what are those baptized added (v. 47)?

3. In **Acts 10:44-48**, which comes first: the work of the Spirit or baptism?

Note: Baptism itself does not save. Only Jesus' blood washes away sins.

4. According to **Col 2:12**, baptism symbolizes that believers share in the spiritual reality behind what events in Christ's life?

5. In **Gal 3:27**, baptism is an outward sign that we have done what?

6. What two spiritual realities does baptism represent in **Acts 22:16**?

7. What marks the person who has been baptized, according to **Rom 6:4**?

➤ Baptism is an *external sign* of God's *inward* gracious work of regeneration (covered in lesson 2).

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM

Christ not only said Christians *must be baptized*, but he stipulated *the way* Christians should be baptized.

1. In what was Jesus baptized in **Matt 3:16**? (Also see **John 3:23**).

2. How do Christ's followers baptize new believers in **Acts 8:37-39**?

3. In **Acts 2:41-42**, what do we see the newly baptized believers doing?

➤ Those baptized join together with a particular body of other like-minded believers (i.e., a Church of Jesus Christ) so that they can worship God and obey Christ blamelessly (compare Acts 2:47).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

While baptism is a sign of a believer's new faith and inward regeneration, the Lord's Supper is a sign of Jesus' death and the forgiveness of sins.

1. According to **1 Cor 11:23-26**, what do the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper represent?

Note: The Lord's Supper is a memorial—a time to remember Christ's death.

2. According to the first phrase in **1 Cor 11:23**, where did Paul get the practice of the Lord's Supper (in other words, who instituted Communion)?

3. According to **1 Cor 10:15**, when believers observe the Lord's Supper, what are they participating in?

4. The last phrase in v. 26 says we anticipate what with each Communion?

➤ Christ instituted the Lord's Supper ordinance, wherein the bread and cup show forth his death. When believers take them by faith and in a worthy manner, they participate in the benefits of Christ's death and are nourished spiritually. Communion looks *back* to Christ's death, looks *around* at the body with whom we share in Christ's benefits, and looks *forward* to Christ's return.

THE WORTHY RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

In **1 Corinthians 11:27-32**, Paul warns believers against taking the Lord's Supper in an *unworthy manner*. Communion is a reverent and holy ordinance.

1. Name a couple things at stake in taking the Lord's Supper unworthily in **vv. 27-32**?

2. According to **1 Cor 11:29**, what must we discern to take the Supper worthily?

Note: When we do not discern the body of Christ at Communion, we are missing the spiritual reality of the ordinance.

3. According to **1 Cor 11:18-20**, what kind of attitudes should not be present at a Lord's Table service?

4. What does **1 Cor 11:28** say a Christian should do before enjoying Communion? What does v. 31 promise us who do this?

➤ Christians should prepare for the table by examining themselves and their faith, meditating on Christ's work, and confessing known sin.