

New Believer Lesson- The Sacraments

What really does the Bible say about the Sacraments?

The Sacraments:

Are they real?
Should they still be practiced in the Church?
How many are for the Christian Church?
How do they affect our lives?

Definitions and Explanations:

- A. A sacrament is an outward sign of and inward work!!
- B. Sometimes the "Ordinance" also means ordained of the Lord!!
- C. There are two main sacraments practiced in the Christian Church and recorded in the Bible:
 - 1. Water Baptism
 - 2. The Lords Supper

Sacrament #1- Water Baptism - what is it and what does the Bible say about it?

- A. Jesus clearly taught that every believer should follow in his steps and be "Water Baptized"!
- B. Water Baptism was ordained by Jesus Christ both by his own example and by his direct Commandment in Matthew 3:13- he commanded them to follow him in the waters of Baptism.
- C. Before he ascended into Heaven, In Matthew 28:19 Jesus Commanded them *"To go into all the world teaching them everything I have commanded and Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit". NIV*
- D. Water Baptism is a picture of what Christ has done in our heart.
- E. It is a symbolic act that shows in a visible way that Christ has washed away our sins. Bible says your old life has been buried and your sinful nature has been dealt with can be controlled under the Blood of Christ. You have been crucified with Christ the old man has gone the new has come **2 Cor . 5:17** You have been raised from Spiritual death to New Life in Christ.

Galatians 2:20-" you have been Crucified with Christ..."

- F. Water Baptism is a Public confession of an inward action in obedience to Christ's command. It means you believe your sins are forgiven and that you have become a true follower of Jesus Christ.

2. Water baptism -Practiced by the Apostles

- A. Water Baptism was an automatic action practiced by the New Testament Church; it was the first step of each new believer upon conversion.
- B. In the Book of Acts 2:38 - As soon as (the New Testament Unsaved/Sinners) had repented they were instructed to be Water Baptized, every one of them, for the forgiveness of their sins
- C. There was no long waiting period between salvation and baptism when a new convert had to prove himself.

- D. In the Books of Acts 8:36 the Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized immediately
- E. Some people are afraid that they may backslide after baptism. Being baptized will help prevent backsliding because it is a step forward with Christ.

F. **INFANT BAPTISM-**

The question is often asked: If I were baptized as a child do I need to be re-baptized?

The fact is that there is no biblical record anywhere stating that children should be baptized?

1. Jesus was not baptized as a child- He was not taken to be baptized by his parents at all.
2. He did not baptize infants or children but "HE DID BLESS THE CHILDREN"! MATTHEW 19:13-15
3. Mark 16:16 speaks of those that believe and are baptized... infant baptism is not the believers Baptism mentioned because infants cannot believe and receive Salvation.

G. The Biblical example of baptism is a believer's baptism for those who receive salvation, we are to be fully immersed in water as an example of washing away the old life, showing our new life being ushered in.

H. This is the way that Christ was baptized in Mark 1:9-10. This is the way the Apostles also baptized their new converts in Acts 8:38

I. Baptism by immersion is a symbol of burial Roman 6:3-8- of the old life perishing and the new replacing it

J. Water baptism is essential to discipleship. If we are going to be like Christ being Baptized is a step of obedience towards service in his Kingdom. It also must be carefully distinguished from Baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body -1Corinthians 12:13
Baptism in the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4

K. **Note:** You are not saved because you are Baptized, you are Baptized because you are saved!

Sacrament #2 -The Lord's Supper

3. The Lords Supper

A. This is also called a Communion Service and it a time when we are to reflect and remember the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:25-28. Matt. 26:26-29

B. The bread that we eat represents his broken body on the cross, while the juice that we drink which replaces the actual wine, represents his Blood that was poured out for us as he died on the Cross at Easter.

There are two main views about the Lords' Supper:

A. Trans-Substantiation-

This is a doctrine that teaches that the bread and the wine are literally changed into the body and blood of Jesus when it's consecrated at the altar.

This of course is not the correct view that an Arminianism holds. The Bible clearly teaches that the elements only represent Christ and are not literal but are simply "symbols" of his body and blood. The elements contain no flesh themselves and so we are not literally eating Christ in the flesh as some believe we are. To hold this view is very anti-scriptural.

B. Consubstantiation-

This is a doctrine most Arminianists teach that the bread and wine in the Communion Service are not literally the body and blood of Christ. They do teach that they only represent them, as a whole according to 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

When should we partake in the Communion Elements?

- A. The Bible states in the Book of Acts that they celebrated the Lord's Supper whenever they meet together. Acts 20:7
- B. Also in Acts 2:46-47 it says that "everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts, they broke bread and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."NIV
- C. Therefore Communion can be celebrated on a daily basis or a monthly basis, depending on the preference. Both are Biblical and acceptable
- D. Communion is a focus on Christ' life death and resurrection, His New life for us. We are to always remember his great sacrifice for us on that cruel cross.