

# OUR ORDINANCES 101

## BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER

February 08, 2009

FBC Port A

FBC, Port A practices two Biblically prescribed church ordinances:

### Believer's Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We call them ordinances because their practice by the church is ordained in scripture.

We do not use the term sacrament because it conveys the idea of obtaining grace or forgiveness through their practice, which is not a Biblical concept.

God's grace and forgiveness can be obtained only through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:20b-21** (NIV) *"But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

### So What Purposes Do the Ordinances Serve?

Believer's Baptism serves as an act of...

#### 1. Public faith

**Matthew 10:32** (NLT) *"If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven."*

#### 2. Public commitment

**1 Peter 3:20b-21** (NLT) *"...God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And this is a picture of baptism, which now saves you by the power of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Baptism is not a removal of dirt from your body; it is an appeal to God from a clean conscience."*

#### 3. Public Christ-likeness

**Luke 3:21** (NIV) When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

#### 4. Public symbolism

The cleansing of sin.

**Acts 22:16 CEV** *"What are you waiting for? Get up! Be baptized, and wash away your sins by praying to the Lord."*

The identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

**Romans 6:3-4** (NIV) *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

#### 5. Public Obedience

**Matthew 28:18-20** (NLT) *"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"*

It's important to note...

##### 1. The practice of the ordinance is limited to complete immersion.

The Greek word translated as baptism is "baptiso" meaning to sink, submerge, immerse or bury.

##### 2. The practice of the ordinance is limited to those who have made the personal choice to be saved by the grace through faith in Christ.

The Lord's Supper serves as an act...

#### 1. Remembrance

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** (NIV) *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

#### 2. Reassessment

**1 Corinthians 11:27-28** (NASB) *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup."*

#### 3. Recognition

**1 Corinthians 11:29-30** (NIV) *"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep."*

It's important to note...

##### 1. The practice of the ordinance is not limited to a particular day or schedule. (vs. 26)

##### 2. The practice of the ordinance is limited to believers. (vs. 29)



Rom. 5:20b-21

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A lad in a Baptist family got the notion that he was going to become a preacher. So he would get up on a stump and preach to the chickens or whatever came by. He decided one day that he ought to practice the art of baptism. He looked around for suitable objects for the ceremony. Their old dog had had pups which had grown to a pretty good size. He rounded them up and took them down to the creek and began dunking them under with the appropriate words. He got down to the last one, which was the least sociable. When he picked it up, it growled and bit him, drawing some blood.

"Well," he said, "I'll just sprinkle you and let you go to hell."

Herb Miller says—Baptism is a lot like a wedding ring. Baptism is symbolic of the washing away of our sins. It is also symbolic of a new way of life. It has been said that Baptism is to the Christian faith what the wedding ring is to a marriage. It is a symbol. "Like the wedding ring, baptism draws a mark on the ground between the past and the future. Like the wedding ring, it says, "From this day forward, I stand with God."