

Baptism



Communion

The Sacraments

THE SACRAMENTS

ONLY COMMUNION AND BAPTISM IN WATER BY IMMERSION ARE VALID SACRAMENTS.

ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOUR ARE ABLE TO TRULY PARTAKE OF THESE SACRAMENTS.

WATER BAPTISM

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTISED?

1. It is the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. That should really settle the matter for every Christian. Look up Matthew 28:16 - 20.

Write down the three things that Jesus told His disciples to do:-

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

2. Because Jesus Himself was baptised. (Matthew 3:13 - 17)
3. It is an outward confession of an inner change. It expresses our identification with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1 - 11).
4. It was a fundamental doctrine of the early church. (Acts 2:41; 10:47 - 48)

Every believer, therefore, needs to be baptised. It is such an integral part of the Christian initiation that the New Testament takes it for granted that a profession of faith in Christ will be followed more or less immediately by water baptism.

Acts 18:8

"Many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were _____"

So closely is baptism linked with believing in Jesus that some scriptures place them side by side as part of becoming a Christian. See Mark 16:16 and Acts 22:16

THE SACRAMENTS

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?

The New Testament makes it clear that baptism is only for those who have repented of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read again Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:16.

Many people ask "What if a person was baptised or christened as a baby? Should they be baptised now that they are a believer?" The answer is Yes! There is no direct reference in Scriptures to an infant being baptised.

Look up Acts 2:38

" _____ and _____ ' every one of you, in the name of Jesus

Christ for the _____ of your _____ "

Note the order: First repent and then be baptised. How can an infant fulfil these conditions?

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTISED?

The word 'to baptise' in Greek, the original language of the New Testament, is 'baptizo'. This means to 'dip', 'submerge' or 'plunge' into a liquid. It was used by dyers to describe the act of dipping material into dye.

Acts 8: 38 - 39

"Then both Philip and the eunuch went _____ into the water and Philip baptised him."

Also read John 3:23

"Now John was baptising at Aenon near Salim because there was _____ of _____ "

Another reason for insisting on immersion is that, as we've seen baptism is described as a picture of the death and the resurrection of Jesus and our association with Him in it. We go down under the water into death and rise up into the air again in newness of life.

THE SACRAMENTS

WHAT DOES BAPTISM DO FOR THE BELIEVER?

It is an act of obedience to Christ - a dear cut demonstration that we know how to take orders from our new master. There is always great blessing and satisfaction in obeying the Lord. Our baptism will set a pattern of obedience to His Lordship in our lives as a whole.

Have you met the requirements of Water Baptism? Yes/No

Are you willing to be baptised by immersion? Yes/No

COMMUNION

- Read: Luke 22:7 - 20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 32 -

For the sake of the new Christians it may be helpful to say a little about this wonderful, though simple, meal that Christians have shared in for nearly two thousand years. You will have read about it in Luke 22:7 - 20 and 1 Cor. 11:23 - 24.

This meal forms part of the worshipping life of God's people when we gather on the Lord's Day or perhaps in a house group. There is no rigid pattern or order *laid* down in Scripture. The emphasis is not on the way in which the ceremony is conducted but on the state of our heart and lives. There are four key words which will help to explain what Communion is:

1) REMEMBRANCE

Jesus said, 'Do *this* in remembrance of Me.' He is the most important person present. We are to remember (think about) His great love and sacrifice for our sins at Calvary. The broken bread and the poured out wine are vivid pictures of His sufferings for us.

Notice how personal it is:

Luke 22:19

' _____ body given for _____ '

Luke 22:20

' _____ blood which is poured out for _____ '

THE SACRAMENTS

2) COVENANT

The word speaks of a promise which cannot be broken. The blood of the new covenant tells us that God's promise to save, forgive and redeem His people will never be broken. We, on our part, need to see ourselves as God's covenant people - and to live righteously. It is a serious matter to take Communion. See what happened when some of the early Christians became careless and wilfully went on sinning (1 Cor. 11:30 - 31).

3) FELLOWSHIP

Communion is a meal that God's people eat together. Communion (koinonia' in Greek) means I sharing together; it is a family meal. That is why we share one loaf - it reminds us that we belong to each other (and to Him). We are together in Christ. We need therefore to examine our hearts to make sure that it is so in reality. We need to enjoy being together and to express our love to each other.

4) HOPE

Are we to eat this meal forever? Look up 1 Cor. 11:26

It is 'until _____'

One day we will see Jesus 'face to face'. This is our hope. Until then we feed upon Him in this 'spiritual meal'.

IN SUMMARY

At Communion:

- LOOK BACK and remember Calvary
- LOOK UP and bless God and thank Him for His unspeakable gift.
- LOOK AROUND and thank God for your fellow believers, making sure that you are in a right relationship with them.
- LOOK IN and confess your sins to God because He has promised to cleanse you.
- LOOK FORWARD to the Lord's return and dedicate yourself to doing His will.