

BIBLICAL ORDINANCES

12 Traits of a Biblical Church, part 9

Acts 2:41 - 42, ESV

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ACTS 2:36 - 42

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF OUR INITIAL IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

WHY should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example of Christ.

MATTHEW 3:13 - 17

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

WHY should I be baptized?

2. To obey the command of Christ.

MATTHEW 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .”

WHY should I be baptized?

3. To unite with the body of Christ.



EPHESIANS 4:4 - 6

“There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

WHAT is the meaning of baptism?

1. A celebration of the grace of Christ.

ROMANS 6:3 - 4

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

WHAT is the meaning of baptism?

2. An illustration of the gospel of Christ.
3. A declaration of the glory of Christ.

HOW should I be baptized?

The most biblical mode of baptism is immersion.

WHO should be baptized?

Everyone who has been born again.

WHEN should I be baptized?

1. As soon as you trust in Christ for salvation.
2. As soon as you can best publicly proclaim your salvation.

THE LORD’S SUPPER IS A PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF OUR CONTINUAL IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16)

The Lord’s Table (1 Corinthians 10:21)

The breaking of bread (Acts 2:42; 20:7)



1 CORINTHIANS 11:23 – 32

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.”

WHO should participate in the Lord’s Supper?

Followers of Christ share in the life of Christ as they partake of the Lord’s Supper.

Those who are not followers of Christ see the love of Christ as they watch the Lord’s Supper.

WHERE should we have the Lord’s Supper?

The only biblical requirement: the gathering of the church.

WHEN should we have the Lord’s Supper?

The command: Observe it often.

The question: What about weekly?

WHAT is the meaning of the Lord’s Supper?

A traditional misunderstanding: a change of substance that results in salvation.

A biblical understanding: a symbolic meal that reflects salvation.

WHY should we celebrate the Lord’s Supper?

1. We remember . . . the body and the blood of Jesus.
2. We reflect . . . on our sin and on God’s forgiveness.
3. We renew . . . our commitment to Christ, our commitment to each other, and our commitment to His mission.
4. We rejoice . . . because Jesus has set us free and because He is coming back.

REVELATION 19:6 – 9

“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’ – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true words of God.’”

