

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 45

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Lesson 45: Ordinances: Orders for the Church

Scriptures:

Matthew 3:13-17, 26:26-30; Luke 22:7-20; John 1:29-34; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner in understanding the origin of the ordinances
To assist the learner in understanding the meaning of the ordinances

Scripture Memory:

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19, 20

The Lesson:

Generally, Protestant churches identify two practices of the church as ordinances. That is, they recognize two “orders” coming from Christ Himself. Those are baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Some Christian denominations identify as many as seven such practices and call them Sacraments. The basis for limiting them to two is that Jesus, the one who founded the church, introduced and “ordered” us to participate in these two ceremonies. Other Sacraments are not considered to be Biblically based or “commanded” by Jesus. Anyone who is a Christian may voluntarily participate in these ceremonies.

The first, the Lord’s Supper, was instituted by Jesus just before His crucifixion. He provided the pattern with His disciples as He broke the unleavened bread and then served the fruit of the vine. He referred to the bread as a symbol of His body and the fruit of the vine as a symbol of His blood. His body was to be broken for them...and for us. His blood was to be poured out for them...and for us. The broken body and shed blood referred to our Lord’s sacrificial death on the cross.

When we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are to do it reverently and with self-examination. 1 Corinthians 11:27 tells us that doing so irreverently is to join those who made fun of and crucified our Lord. We follow the instructions in our memory verse today when we follow the command of our Lord to take the Lord’s Supper until He returns to earth.

Paul tells the church at Corinth that when they partake of the Lord’s Supper they draw a picture, for all to see, of the sacrificial death of Jesus, and they are to do it until Jesus returns to earth. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 11, quotes Jesus as saying that we should eat the bread and drink the cup as a way of remembering Him.

The second ordinance is baptism. This is another “order” from our Lord, as seen in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, 20. The English word comes from the Greek word *baptizo* (bap TID zo) which means to dip or plunge. It was sometimes used to describe an animal being dipped for medicinal purposes.

Jesus set the example by going to John the Baptist to be baptized. The New Testament lists many instances of people being baptized. It is an outward symbol of an inward change. It pictures the death and burial of the old person (before salvation) and the resurrection into new life in Christ. (Romans 6:4, 5)

Baptism is the testimony, by the new believer, that Christ has come into his or her life. It is a voluntary act. That testimony is most often seen as the way a person is introduced into membership in the church. That membership issues certain privileges and responsibilities.

The church authorizes persons to baptize new converts. This is most often, but not necessarily, one of the ministers of the church. Jesus said that we were to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Both Baptism and the Lord's Supper have a spiritual nature. They are a physical sign of a spiritual reality. They are a sign that the believer wants to be seen as separated from the world into the spiritual reality of the Kingdom of God.

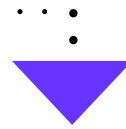
Life Application:

How about you, today? Have you separated yourself from the world and its way of doing things so that you might serve God? If you are not sure, or if your answer is a definite "no," then there is good news for you today. Jesus became the sacrifice for the sin that you so easily get caught up in. He did it willingly. He did it so that you might have a relationship with the Father, God. Haven't you realized that you are sinful? The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned. (Romans 3:23) Because of that sin, we all deserve death. (Romans 6:23) But while we were still busy sinning, Jesus Christ died for us. He died for you. (Romans 5:8) If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead—you will be saved. (Romans 10:9) Are you ready to make Jesus the Lord of your life? That means you hand control over to Him, allowing Him to lead and guide you. Won't you do that right now?

Once you have begun a relationship with the God of the universe, you have the amazing opportunity to remember His death through the Lord's Supper. You also have another wonderful opportunity. While you are going here and there, you can teach others what you have learned about this amazing God who loves us. You can lead them to a saving relationship with God. They can then be baptized into a body of believers giving testimony of the wonderful things God has done for them.



**Planning for Lesson 46:
Missions: God Calls
and People Go**



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the memory verses several times. Talk about the action words (verbs) in the verses. Talk about ways to put this verse into practice.

- ◆ Remember Jesus today by partaking of the Lord's Supper. Read the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper. Share 1 Corinthians 11: 23-30 being sure to give your students time before the Lord's Supper to examine themselves and ask forgiveness in prayer to God or from others whom they might have sinned against.

- ◆ Sing "Family of God," "In Remembrance of Me," "Let Us Break Bread Together," "How Beautiful," and Cheri Keaggy's "In Remembrance of Me."

- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read the memory verse. These were some of Jesus' last words before He returned to Heaven. What do His instructions have to do with the two ordinances we've learned about today?

- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Provide concordances for your students. Look up Scriptures pertaining to being right with God—in relation to the Lord's Supper. Look for words like forgive, unworthy, etc. Talk about your findings.



Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19, 20

Word Search



R	E	V	E	S	P	I	H	S	R	E	A	E	R	G	C	T	T
A	K	B	A	N	I	T	I	F	I	Y	A	T	G	R	N	H	W
S	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	M	A	X	E	F	L	E	S	G	O
S	T	D	E	I	U	O	S	E	L	I	V	R	E	A	T	J	O
A	D	Y	R	D	I	V	A	H	A	I	D	V	L	T	D	O	G
C	H	T	A	E	D	L	A	I	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	E
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S	R	I	Q	S	L	A	L	B	N	L	S	S	E	I	C	T	C
G	E	S	S	D	O	B	T	S	I	R	H	C	S	U	S	E	J

Jesus Christ

two orders

baptism

Lord's Supper

Biblical

body

blood

sacrificial death

obedience

reverence

self-examination

Great Commission

Word Search



R E V E S P I H S R E A E R G C T T
 A K B A N I T I F I Y A T G R N H W
 S N O I T A N I M A X E F L E S G O
 S T D E I U O S E L I V R E A T J O
 A D Y R D I V A H A I D V L T D O G
 C H T A E D L A I C I F I R C A S E
 R S A W B Q E D G I N H P O O P R L
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