

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

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Meaning of Baptism  
and the Lord's Supper

# ARTICLE 7

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

A Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

# ARTICLE 7

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper *(continued)*

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

# ARTICLE 7

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper (*continued*)

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

# OUR BELIEFS

## Baptism and the Lord's Supper

- . We believe there are two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that water baptism is an act of obedience to the command of Christ and is by immersion after salvation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is for believers to proclaim Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and future return.

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

- . Baptism is an act of association or identification with someone or something.
- . Christian baptism is an act of identifying with the person of Jesus Christ, the message of the gospel, and a group of believers (the local church).

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

- Matthew 28:18-20 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

- . Christian baptism is meant to symbolize the experience of salvation. It is a picture of passing through the waters of judgment safely, of dying and rising with Christ, and of having our sins washed away (Rom 6:1-11; Col 2:12).

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

- Romans 6:3-5 – “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

# MEANING OF BAPTISM

- Baptism ought to strengthen and encourage our faith by giving us reassurance of our salvation.

# MODE OF BAPTISM

- . There are three primary ways that churches baptize their people: immersion, sprinkling, and pouring.
- . In the New Testament, Christians were baptized by immersion. This is why Baptists believe immersion is the only legitimate form of baptism.

# MODE OF BAPTISM

- The Greek word baptizo, from which we get the English word “baptize,” means “to plunge, dip, or immerse” something in water.
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- Immersion best pictures our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12).

# MODE OF BAPTISM

- All of the recorded baptisms in the New Testament require immersion, or at the very least as best understood as immersions.
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- Even non-immersionists admit that the apostolic church practiced immersion.

# SUBJECT OF BAPTISM

- The New Testament pattern is that only those who gave a credible profession of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ were to be baptized (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13, 36-38, 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5).

# SUBJECT OF BAPTISM

- Believer's baptism is necessary because Christian baptism is an act of faith and a public proclamation that a person has been united with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- This is why Baptists do not believe that infants can be baptized, because infants are incapable of choosing to believe in Christ for themselves.

# SUBJECT OF BAPTISM

- Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for believers to be obedient to Christ and to grow in their relationship with him.
- Scripture does not specify who should perform baptisms, but it does make it clear that baptism is a church ordinance and that it should be done under the authority of a local church, as this is the pattern laid down in the book of Acts.

# SUBJECT OF BAPTISM

- Baptism should only occur once in the life of every believer, because the regeneration that it symbolizes only occurs one time.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in connection with eating the Passover meal before his crucifixion.

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Matthew 26:26-29 - While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . It is something which he commanded us as his disciples to repeat .
- . Luke 22:19 - And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

- 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 - 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 He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . We remember Christ's death – his sacrifice for our sins  
(1 Corinthians 11:24-26)

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . This celebration is the replacement of Passover and demonstrates both the continuity and discontinuity of Christ's New Covenant with the Old Covenant.

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . 1 Corinthians 10:16 - The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion [participation] of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- By our actions we symbolically proclaim that we have taken the benefits of Christ's death for ourselves. The Lord's Supper gives us spiritual nourishment – it makes us think and realize how we are continually sustained in Christ.

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- John 6:53-57 - Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- It is a realization that only by partaking of Christ's broken body and shed blood can we have forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:28) and fellowship with God (Matt 26:27-29)

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- We look forward to our great banquet with our God (Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:26)
- We keep this celebration until Christ's return, because it points forward to the time when Jesus will once again eat with us (physically) in the Kingdom

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . This should assure us each time that we eat of Jesus' promise to us – that we look forward to a time of unimaginable blessing and fellowship with our Savior

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Revelations 19:7-9 - "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . We celebrate our unity as believers in Christ
- . 1 Cor 10:17 - For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- All who partake of the Lord's Supper look back on the same event, celebrate the same salvation, and worship the same Savior
- We celebrate this in the local church, which is the only place it should be celebrated, because it is the only visible manifestation of our unity in Christ

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . We give thanks for Christ's sacrifice

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . The word “blessed” is the word from which we get “Eucharist” which means “thanksgiving”

# THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Every time we celebrate the Supper we have an opportunity to thank God for Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and consequently our salvation.

# CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Baptists have historically held to the commemorative view of the Lord's Supper. The ordinance is a symbol of Christ's death that does not in itself communicate God's grace. The ordinance is simply a remembrance of Christ's death and a longing for His return. The spiritual reality of the ordinance only resides in the faith of the participant.

# CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

- The Lord's Supper is primarily a commemorative event, although it does convey spiritual blessing to the believer when it is taken in faith.

# PARTICIPANTS IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

- The Lord's Supper is only meaningful for believers because it is a sign of being in Christ and participating in Christ's community (the church).
- While baptism is a symbol of beginning the Christian life, the Lord's Supper is a symbol of participating and continuing in the Christian life.

# FREQUENCY AND SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- . Scripture gives no explicit teaching on the administration of the Lord's Supper, other than that it is a local church ordinance.
- . Traditionally, deacons have served the Lord's Supper because of the service nature of their office.
- . Scripture gives no explicit teaching on the frequency of celebrating the Lord's Supper. Historically, most churches have done it weekly, although most Baptist churches today do not do it that often.