

The Symbols and Their Significance

Article 7: Baptism and the Lord's Supper¹ - "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 Savior, 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.

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."

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.

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death: Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

I. The Symbol and Significance of Baptism

Baptism is the first step every believer should take in his or her walk with Christ.

- See [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Acts 8:36-39](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#)

baptizo – means to immerse or dip completely (Thayer's – to overwhelm, to cover wholly with a fluid)

Baptism involves:

- 1) It always involved water. ([Matthew 3:5-6](#))
- 2) It involved "much" water. ([John 3:23](#))
- 3) It involved "going down into the water". ([Acts 8:38](#))
- 4) It involved a "burial" beneath the water. ([Romans 6:5](#))
- 5) It involved a "coming back up out of the water". ([Matthew 3:16](#))

¹ From the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>.

Why Should We Be Baptized?

- 1) To obey Christ (**John 14:15**) – Jesus died for me, we can at least do as He commanded.
- It really is our first act of obedience as a Christian
- 2) For our own selves – It nails down our death and burial to sin and our decision to follow Christ fully.
- 3) As a witness to the world.
 - a. It's a confession before men. (see **Matthew 10:31-32**)
 - b. It's me saying that I will take my stand with the people of God.

Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.

BOTTOM LINE: WHAT AM I SAYING WHEN I GET BAPTIZED?

1. I am IDENTIFYING with Christ. (His death, burial and resurrection)
2. I am saying that my sins were washed away by the BLOOD of Jesus.
3. I am saying I've been placed into the body of Christ by the HOLY SPIRIT.
4. I am saying I've decided to live a SEPARATED life. There's no turning back.

II. The Symbol and Significance of the Lord's Supper

"Eucharist" from a Greek word meaning "giving of thanks" (**Matt 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17, 19; 1 Cor. 11:24**).

"breaking bread" a term used in **Acts 2:42, 20:7** and **1 Cor. 10:16**.

"the Lord's Table" found in **1 Cor. 10:21**.

"Communion" which Paul used in **1 Cor. 10:16**.

"the Lord's Supper" is found in **1 Cor. 11:20**.

7 Things about the Lord's Supper from **1 Corinthians 10:17-22**:

1. It is a Commemoration Supper "*in remembrance of Me*" (**11:24, 25**)
2. It is a Celebration Supper "*gave thanks*" (**v.24**)
3. It is a Consecration Supper "*So let a man examine himself and then let him partake*" (**v.28**)
4. It is a Communion Supper "*communion of the body and blood of the Lord*" (**1 Cor. 10:16-17**)
5. It is a Contemplation Supper - we "*proclaim the Lord's death until He comes*" (**11:26**)
6. It is a Commanded Supper – Paul was simply repeating the command of Christ to do this.
7. It is a Christian Supper – only Christians should partake in the "**Lord's Supper**" (*Gk. kyriakós, "belonging to the Lord"*)