

WATER BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:3-5, Luke 22:19-20

Memory Verse: If ye love me, keep my commandment (John 14:15)

Introduction

Water Baptism is a biblical institution to be performed by all believers after the experience of salvation, commanded by Jesus Christ. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection; believers thereby unite with the pattern of Jesus Christ when they are baptized.

Holy Communion was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ shortly before His death. He commanded all Christians to continue to gather together regularly to share the bread and wine till He comes back again. It is also called the “Lord’s Supper”. The Lord’s Supper gives believers the opportunity to identify themselves with Jesus - the Mediator of the new covenant and show that they are willing to experience both His life (power) and death (suffering) in their daily walk (Philippians 3:10-11).

Water Baptism

Acts 2:37-38; 16:14-15; 30-33; Acts 18:8; 19:4-5

The New Testament Church was born on the day of Pentecost, after Peter’s preached a convincing sermon of salvation and baptism. This verse revealed how the apostles followed Jesus’ command in Matthew 28:19-20. The Bible also state that repentance must precede baptism (Acts 2:41, 8:5, 12). Every saved believer automatically qualifies for Water Baptism (Acts 8:29-39, 16:28-33). Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3:13-17) “...leaving us an *example*, that you should *follow His steps*” (I Pet. 2:21). Even, if you are already baptised in the Holy Spirit, you still need to be baptized in water (Act 10:44, 47-48). Water Baptism is done in name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is one of the spiritual actions where the supreme authority is invoked. The Greek word ‘baptizo’ means immerse, dip or put into; therefore the proper form of baptism is immersion and not sprinkling or pouring (John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39, Matthew 3:16, Col 2:12). Only immersion is the true symbolism of the meaning of baptism. We are baptized into Christ and not church denomination (Gal. 3:27-29). Water Baptism is not to be delayed, after salvation (Acts 16:32-33, 8:36-38).

Holy Communion

Luke 22:17-20; Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; I Cor. 10:16-17; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-30

There are two symbolic elements of Holy Communion – the bread and wine. The bread represents the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. By partaking of the bread in communion, we acknowledge that Jesus is our source of life (John 6:51-58). His body (life) was broken so that we might have life, which ushered in the new covenant, signified by the temple veil tearing into two (Hebrew 10:19-20). Also, the breaking of bread with other believers signifies fellowship within the Body of Christ and unity by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:42). Also, the symbol of a wine in the cup represents a measure or portion, and blood which signify suffering and death. Blood is the life of the body, but when it is poured out, death occurs (Leviticus 17:11). By partaking of the communion cup, we commit to follow Jesus no matter the cost; just as He did (Mark 14:36). The body of Christ is strengthened and Jesus is glorified when we serve one another in humility and share blessings in selfless love (1Cor. 10:17). All believers of all ages have the right to partake of the Lord’s table, but the bible warns that we should examine ourselves and get rid of all filthiness and unworthiness before doing so (1Cor. 11:27-29, 10:21-22, James 4:4).

Scriptural Reading Assignment

Matthew 28, Acts 2, 8, John 6, 1 Corinthians 11