

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

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Introduction: There are two ordinances the Bible instructs us to observe:

- I. WATER BAPTISM – an open and public profession of your faith in Christ as Savior.
 - A. The Symbolism -- the new convert goes down into the water, a picture of our old man being buried with Christ, then rises from the water, a picture of our being raised by Christ as a New Creation (Colossians 2:12).
 - B. Although not Essential to salvation, we are commanded to submit to baptism as a public profession of faith (Matthew 28:19).
 - C. Jesus is our Example (Matthew 3:13).
 - D. The Converts of the early church were baptized (Acts 8:38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:33).
- II. THE LORD’S SUPPER – when Jesus ate His last “Passover” meal with the disciples, He commanded that this be done until His coming (I Corinthians 11:24-25).
 - A. The “Bread” – represents the Body of Christ. (We are to remember that He left Heaven and took on a body like ours, and He did it all for us. We should further remember His sufferings for our sins. Finally, we should remember that the Church is now called the Body of Christ and we should respect the other members as such) (Matthew 26:26; I Corinthians 11:29; I Corinthians 12:12).
 - B. The “Cup” – represents the blood of Jesus which validates the New Covenant. (We no longer are required to bring animal sacrifices as under the Old Covenant) (I Corinthians 12:25; Matthew 26:27-28).