



FOUNDATIONS

[Track One : Believer To Disciple]

Lesson 09 : The Sacraments of the Church

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By sacraments or ordinances of the Church we refer to the practices ordained by Christ to be permanently observed by the Church.



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These ordinances as practiced by the believer are also means by which the power of Christ's finished work on the Cross becomes real and effective in the believer's life.



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Water Baptism

1. Introduced by John the baptist when announcing the Kingdom of heaven on earth, as a sign of repentance (Matthew 3:1-8)



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Water Baptism

2. Jesus was baptized – although He had nothing to repent from - as a way to demonstrate obedience to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:13-16).



Water Baptism

**3. Baptism is a command in the New Testament
(Matthew 28:19-20)**

Water Baptism

4. Baptism expresses your decision to follow Jesus Christ alone (Acts 2:38,39)

Water Baptism

5. Baptism is a symbol of the inner experience of death, burial and resurrection with Jesus (Romans 6:4)

Water Baptism

6. Baptism is an expression of your desire to maintain a clear conscience before God (1 Peter 3:21).

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Water Baptism

7. The only requirement to be baptized is “repent and believe” in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 8:36,37).



Water Baptism

8. Baptism is by immersion in water only (Acts 8:36, 37).

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Water Baptism

9. You don't have to become very holy to be baptized.

10. Water baptism will not make you a spiritual giant. You still have to grow spiritually through the Word and prayer.



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Water Baptism

11. Because baptism is an act of obedience you can expect increased measure of blessing.

12. Because baptism is a symbolic proclamation of the Cross, you can expect the power of the cross to affect your life in breaking bondages, addictions, bringing deliverance, etc., during baptism.



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The Lord's Table

Matthew 26:18-30

1 Corinthians 11:20-34

1 Corinthians 10:16-21



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The Lord's Table

The Lord's table was instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself.

The Lord's table is open to all who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.



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The Lord's Table

Celebrating the Lord's Table is :

1. An expression of our personal faith in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord.



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The Lord's Table

Celebrating the Lord's Table is :

2. A proclamation of the completed work of Christ on the cross. Every proclamation is powerful in the spiritual realm and hence we can expect to receive the power of the Cross invading our lives as we partake in the Lord's table.



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The Lord's Table

Celebrating the Lord's Table is :

3. An expression of our faith in His return.



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The Lord's Table

Celebrating the Lord's Table is :

4. An expression of our union with Jesus (we are declaring our "communion" with the body and blood of Jesus - with Christ Himself. 1 Corinthians 10:16)



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The Lord's Table

Celebrating the Lord's Table is :

5. An expression of our union with one another (1 Corinthians 10:17)



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The Lord's Table

We must prepare our hearts by :

- Examining our lives and renouncing known sin**
- Taking the elements understanding and believing in what they represent – the death and shed blood of Christ on the cross**



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Partaking In A Worthy Manner

1, they were partaking of the Lord's table (as an act of worship) and then also partaking of foods offered to idols as an act of worship toward the idol which Paul calls idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14-33).

2, they had turned the Lord's table into some sort of feast (1 Corinthians 11:20-22)



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Requirement

There is no explicit age restriction in Scripture on when a person should be baptized in water or when a person can start participating in the Lord's table.

The only requirement is that a person has been born again (has become a believer) through personal faith in Jesus Christ.



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Common Questions

1, If I was "baptized" before - either "sprinkled" or I just went through "immersion" without having been born again, is it necessary, alright for me to be baptized "again"?

Now that you are a believer, Yes, it is alright to be baptized again and do it as an expression of your faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 19:1-6

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Common Questions

2, Do I need to reach some spiritual level or spiritual maturity before being water baptized?

No. The only requirement we see is that one is born again, becomes a believer in Jesus Christ.



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Common Questions

3, Can one believer baptize another believer in water or should water baptism be conducted only by a Pastor or some spiritual leader?

yes, any believer can baptize another believer in water.



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Common Questions

4, What if I took part in the Lord's table in an "unworthy manner" not really understanding or having faith in what I was doing - will I be struck down with some deadly disease?

No. Just recognize that you took this lightly. Tell the Lord you are sorry, (i.e. repent) and going forward, do it right way.



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Common Questions

5, Should I take part in the Lord's table when the person leading the celebration himself does not believe in what he is doing?

There is no value in taking part in the Lord's table if the person leading the celebration does not believe in what is being done.

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Common Questions

6, Can I as a believer take part in the Lord's table at home?

Sure. As long as you are doing it as unto the Lord, in remembrance of Him, one or more believers can celebrate the Lord's table at home or anywhere else.