

**WEEK 2: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ORDINANCES?**

**DAY 1: WHAT IS AN ORDINANCE?**

1. In Baptist churches a person makes a public profession of his/her faith in the Lord Jesus. In most Baptist churches very soon after that a church leader will talk to that person about his/her decision and baptism.

Have you made a public profession of your faith in Jesus in front of a Baptist church? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you baptized by immersion after being saved? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. We pray that you were able to answer both of the questions above with a yes. If not, please talk about this with your seminar leader or church leader.

Baptism is one of the two ordinances of a Baptist church. The word, ordinance, means "a requirement" or "commandment" or "rule". We will use the word, commandment because Jesus gave us a command about the two ordinances observed by Baptists. The command about baptism is in Matthew 28:19. Can you say Matthew 28:19 & 20 out loud, right now?

Write Matthew 28:19 & 20, without looking in your Bible. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Now check in your Bible to see if you have written it correctly. Jesus, himself, was baptized when he was ready to begin his years of public ministry. Jesus commanded us to be baptized.

Jesus also gave us instructions about the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is the second ordinance of a Baptist church. Jesus gave us a command about what we call the Lord's Supper when he was ending his years of public ministry.

What are the two ordinances of a Baptist church?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Baptism and the Lord's supper are the two ordinances of a Baptist church. These two ordinances are considered by Baptists to be the only ordinances because they remind Christians of three things:

1. The death of Jesus

2. The burial of Jesus

3. The resurrection of Jesus

These tell the good news of how Jesus became the way of salvation.

Write the three things we are reminded of when we see someone baptized or we have the Lord's Supper.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. We are reminded of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus when we see a person baptized or we have the Lord's Supper. These two ordinances do not give us salvation. They are symbols, or signs, or pictures of great truths. They remind us of salvation and the blessings already received. Read Romans 6:6-10.

Do the ordinances of the church give us salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. The ordinances of the church remind us of the blessing of salvation we have already received. They do not give us salvation. We do these because Jesus commanded us to do them. They are to help us remember what Jesus did for us, not to give us salvation or a special blessing when we do them.

**WEEK 2: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ORDINANCES?**  
**DAY 2: BAPTISM**

1. The history of baptism goes back before Christian baptism. The Jews baptized Gentiles (any not born Jews) who became followers of the Jewish faith. It was a sort of initiation into the Jewish faith. These persons would have the commandments read over them. Then the person would put himself completely under water. This Jewish baptism shows three important teachings that are true for Christian baptism.

1. Those baptized were ones who knew the importance of their decision.
2. A definite decision of faith came before baptism.
3. Immersion of a person completely in water showed that person's total commitment to his new faith.

Write the three important teachings that come from Jewish history about baptism.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
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2. Look at the list above to see if you have written enough to show you understand the teachings.

The baptism of John the Baptist was like the Jewish baptism of Gentiles becoming Jews. However, John baptized people born of Jewish parents. He preached that being born of Jewish parents was not enough to show that a person was a follower of God. John was telling everyone to get ready for the promised One who was coming. He told the people that their lives should show that they were followers of God.

Did being born in a Jewish family make that person a follower of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Just as being born in a Christian family does not make you a Christian, being born in a Jewish family did not make that person a follower of God. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist he was agreeing with John's message. Jesus was committing Himself publicly to God's will. After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, God, the Father, spoke from heaven and said "This is my Son, Whom I love, with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17.

When Jesus was baptized, where did the voice come from and whose voice was it?

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4. The voice came from heaven and it was the voice of God, the Father. God is well pleased when a new child of His publicly shows in baptism what has already happened to him by personally having faith in God. "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

Write Romans 6:4, using your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Read Romans 6:4 in your Bible. Did you write its meaning correctly? We will talk about this in class.

The Greek word, *baptizo*, means to immerse, plunge, or put under. It came into other languages as a transliterated word, not a translated word. It came into the English language, and from there into other languages, in an interesting way.

What does the Greek word, *baptizo*, mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. The Greek word, *baptizo*, means to immerse, plunge, or put under.

King James of England in 1607, authorized a new printing of the English Bible. He was not only king, but was also called the head of the Church of England. The Church of England was sprinkling, not immersing, when they baptized. Because of this, instead of translating the word and writing "immerse", they just transliterated, or made to look like English, the Greek word "*baptizo*" and wrote "baptize". Therefore, we have the word, baptism, instead of immersion.

If you were to translate the Greek word, baptizo, into English, what one word would you use?

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7. The most commonly used one word to translate from the Greek is "immersion". Other words meaning about the same would also be right. In Jewish faith and in the New Testament churches, baptism was by immersion.

A person is usually baptized before witnesses. These witnesses are witnesses to the person's commitment to Jesus. By being baptized he is showing his faith. Baptism by immersion is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism shows that a person has died to sin, has buried the old sinful nature, and has been raised to new life.

**WEEK 2: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ORDINANCES?**  
**DAY 3: BAPTISM**

1. We have studied the meaning of the word, baptism.

Write the meaning here. \_\_\_\_\_

Write what picture baptism shows \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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2. I hope you remembered that the word, baptism, means to immerse, plunge, or put under. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and shows that a person has died to sin, has buried the old sinful nature, and has been raised to new life.

Baptists only baptize persons who have personally professed Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Baptists do not baptize infants. Baptists do dedicate infants and their parents to God. The parents are to train that child in God's ways. The church congregation has a responsibility to help train the child, also. The dedication service for infant and parents is nothing like baptism. There is no clear evidence of any infant baptism in the Bible.

a. Do Baptists baptize infants? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Do Baptists dedicate infants and parents? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Does the Bible say to baptize infants? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The answers to the questions above are a - no, b - yes, and c - no. Baptists do dedicate infants and their parents.

The age a person must be before baptism is not a specific age in years. Baptism can only be for someone old enough to make that commitment for him/her self. That age is different with different people. Baptism is a testimony of a person's faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism shows that a person has repented of personal sin and has committed him/her self to Jesus as Lord.

How old should a person be before baptism?

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4. A person must be old enough to make a personal commitment to Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

The local church is responsible to control baptism. Baptism is not a way of salvation. It is a testimony of one who has been saved. If a person's life does not show that he is a Christian, the church should not baptize him. The church should examine carefully those who are to be baptized so that there will be no misunderstanding.

What church ordinance is a personal testimony that a person has been saved?

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5. After a person is saved then he can give a testimony to others by being baptized by the church. All believers who have not been immersed after having become believers should be baptized. Those who come from another Baptist church or another denomination must be questioned about their baptism if they want to be members of a local Baptist church. If they were not baptized as believers by immersion, the church should ask that they be baptized. Acts 2:41 very plainly tells us they believed first, then were baptized and became members of the group. This policy is what gave Baptists their name.

Where in the Bible do we read that those who were joined to the group of Christian believers were those who repented and then were baptized?

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6. Acts 2:41 tells us that those who repented and then were baptized were joined to the group of Christian believers.

The local church chooses who will do the baptizing. Usually that person is the pastor or church leader. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit the church may choose someone else to do the baptizing. Baptism might be done in a specially built baptistery in the church building, or near by. It may be in the river, lake, or

in a special hole dug or in a tank made just for baptizing.

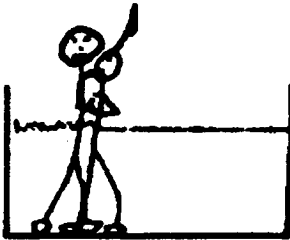
Is the pastor the only person who can baptize? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. No, the pastor is not the only person who can baptize. The local church can choose any member to baptize, as they are led by the Holy Spirit.

Baptists practice baptism by immersion for believers, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Do you remember Matthew 28:19 & 20? Say it out loud right now.

Baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in Jesus' death, his burial, and his resurrection as our Saviour. Baptism shows three things that have happened in a person's life. These three are:

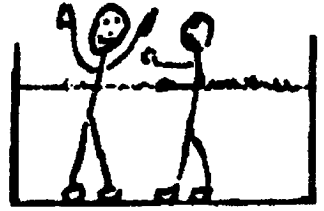
1. The believer has died to sin.
2. The believer had buried the old life.
3. The believer is walking in a new life in Christ Jesus.



DEATH



BURIAL



RESURRECTION

Write down the three things that have happened In a person's life that baptism shows.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
- =====

8. Baptism shows that the believer has died to sin, buried the old life, and is walking in a new life.

Remember when we talked about a person going in front of the church during the invitation to make a public profession of faith in Jesus? Now we can add the next step. Sometimes this step is requested at the same time one makes a public profession of faith, but that is not necessarily true. Baptism is a requirement before church membership in a Baptist church. Repentance, forgiveness, and a new life comes first and is publicly made known to the church. Then comes baptism to picture what has happened. Read Acts 2:41 again. Baptism is the first ordinance observed in a Baptist church.

What are the first two requirements for church membership in a Baptist church?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Salvation and baptism are required before a person becomes a member of the church. A person who has already been saved, asks the church to baptize him/her and allow church membership. This request is also made in front of the church at the time of the invitation.

**WEEK 2: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ORDINANCES?**  
**DAY 4: THE LORD'S SUPPER**

1. What did we study is the first ordinance observed in a Baptist church?

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Is being baptized part of being saved? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The first ordinance of Baptist churches is baptism. Being baptized does not save. It is a picture of what has already happened in a person's life.

The second ordinance of Baptist churches is the Lord's Supper. Jesus gave instructions for this the night before he died on the cross for us. That night he was eating the Passover meal with the twelve disciples. He gave a new meaning to the Passover meal. Read Matthew 26:26-30.

What is the second ordinance of Baptist churches? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The second ordinance of Baptist churches is the Lord's Supper.

The Passover is an important day in the history of the Israelites. Even today they remember the night God had the death angel pass over His people in Egypt. Every house that had sprinkled the doorposts with the blood of a lamb was safe. Jews remember how that was when their ancestors were given freedom from bondage in Egypt. Today families eat a meal of remembrance. Read about the first Passover meal in Exodus, Chapter 12.

What did Israelites put on the doorposts? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. They put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts. When Jesus ate the meal with his twelve disciples he used the bread as a symbol of His body. Jesus used the juice from the fruit of a vine as a symbol of His blood. God's people in Egypt were delivered by the body and blood of the lamb. Jesus, the Lamb of God, with His body and His blood, delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. The blood of the lamb protected God's people from the death angel. The blood of Jesus protects the believers from spiritual death.

The blood of a lamb protected God's people in Egypt from the death angel.

Whose blood protects us from spiritual death? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. The blood of Jesus Christ protects us from spiritual death. The lamb took the place of the firstborn sons of Israel. Jesus has taken the believer's place in death. The meal was only for God's people, the Hebrews or Israelites. The Lord's Supper is only for believers. At the meal they remember the great thing God has done.

Who has taken the believer's place in death? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death and that Jesus; has taken the believer's place in death. Read about Jesus, eating his last meal in Luke 22:7-20. Jesus told his disciples to eat the bread. Jesus said, "This bread is like my body which will be sacrificed for you." Jesus told them to remember Him every time they had this type of meal (the Lord's Supper).

What are we to do every time we have the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. We are to remember Jesus' death every time we have the Lord's Supper. Jesus said the cup of wine (juice from the fruit of a vine) represented the new covenant, or agreement, that was possible only because of the shed blood of Jesus. In drinking from the cup the disciples would remember Christ, especially in His death.

Did Jesus die and shed His blood for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you accepted this loving gift? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. It is our prayer that you have been able to answer yes to both of the above questions. All believers are to observe this memorial meal until Jesus returns. The bread and wine do not contain or become the body and blood of Jesus. They show that Jesus is not here on earth right now. They are symbols so that Christians will remember what Jesus did for them.

The bread and wine are not Jesus' body. What do they show? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. The bread and wine of the Lord's Supper show that Jesus is not here on earth right now. The Lord's Supper is a meal of remembrance. Whenever Christians have the Lord's Supper, they remember what Jesus had done for them. Christians remember His life and death. Christians remember His burial and resurrection.

Christians remember all He did for their salvation.

Write three important things Christians remember when they have the Lord's Supper.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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10. When Christians have the Lord's Supper they remember the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. They also remember (1) His victory over sin and death. Christians remember (2) Jesus promised not to leave them alone in this world. Read John 14:18. They remember (3) the Holy Spirit is present in those who believe, so the Holy Spirit can teach them and make them remember. Read John 14:26. Christians also remember (4) His promise to return for His people. Read John 14:18.

Write 4 things, In addition to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, that Christians remember when they have the Lord's Supper.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 2: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ORDINANCES?

### DAY 5: THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. Write three important things that we remember when we have the Lord's Supper.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. We will talk about this in class, but look back to yesterday's lesson to find the answer to the question above.

When a church has the Lord's Supper it is a time of worship. It may be at the end of the Sunday worship service, or it may be the major part of a Sunday worship service. It may be on a weekday evening or on a special day in the week.

Can a church have the Lord's Supper at different times in the week? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The Lord's Supper can be held any time the church decides, so the answer is yes. In worship, a Christian is to examine his life and actions. Even more so, this is to be done during the Lord's Supper. Examine yourself during the Lord's Supper. This, too, is a time of worship.

What is a person to do to himself during worship? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Lord's Supper a time of worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. A person is to examine himself, or his life, during worship and the Lord's Supper is a time of worship.

Instructions for taking the Lord's Supper are clearly given in 1 Corinthians 11:20-28. Read these verses and we will talk about this in class.

The church should have the Lord's Supper at regular times. The Scriptures do not say how often, but many Baptist churches choose to have it every three

months. Some Baptist churches have the Lord's Supper every month. Having the Lord's Supper too often can sometimes make it lose meaningfulness. Having it not enough can cause forgetfulness. The church should decide when it will have the Lord's Supper.

How often do many Baptist churches have the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

How often does your church have the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Many Baptist churches have the Lord's Supper every three months. We will talk about what your church does when we meet together.

The bread and juice used for the Lord's Supper are called the "elements", or food parts, of the Lord's Supper. Most Baptist churches try to use a bread without leavening (like a chapati) and a juice from fruit of a vine (like passion fruit juice, tomato juice, blackberry or currant juice--"Ribina", or grape juice, if available). None of these juices have any magic power. One church we know used Coca-Cola. Coke is flavoured with the vanilla bean that comes from a vine.

What does your church use for the "elements" of the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. We will talk about this in our class discussion. What is used, and whatever the manner of serving, the meaning must be the same: to remember what the Lord did in His death, burial and resurrection and to remember that He will come back.

Only Christians should be allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper. An unsaved person can not remember something he has never had. We who are saved have salvation through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, and we can remember what Jesus did for us.

Who are the ones to be allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper?

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7. Only believing Christians should be allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper.

In most Baptist churches the church leader and his helpers direct the Lord's Supper. They pray and quietly distribute the bread while the congregation is quietly examining themselves in their hearts and minds. Read again 1 Corinthians 11:20-28. When a person remembers something he has done wrong, he asks God to forgive him but he does not do it with a loud voice. He does it quietly in his heart and mind so that others are not disturbed.

Who quietly distributes the bread in your church? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. In most Baptist churches the church leader/pastor, and his chosen helpers quietly distribute the bread.

After everyone has received a small piece of the bread the leader reminds everyone that Jesus said to remember His broken body, and then all eat at one time. Then, after prayer, the juice is distributed to everyone, just like the bread. The leader reminds the congregation that Jesus said to remember His blood shed for our salvation, and all drink at the time. After this a hymn is sung and all go out, just as the disciples did when they ate the last supper with our Lord Jesus.

Read about the Lord's Supper again in Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, and Luke 22:15-20.

Does your church sing a certain hymn each time you have the Lord's Supper?

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What hymn do you sing? \_\_\_\_\_

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