

STUDY NUMBER THREE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS - LOCAL CHURCH ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

Introduction: This study can be for new Christians and for all Church members as well. Each Church is different but all observe two particular practices (ordinances) or outward rites which Jesus prescribed to be performed by His Church.

I. TWO ORDINANCES TO BE OBSERVED

1. Baptism
2. The Lord's Supper.
3. The two ordinances are symbolic in nature and neither contains nor conveys the grace of God.
4. Ordinances are contrasted with the Catholic "Sacrament" which they falsely teach to be instrumental in transmitting the grace of God pertaining to salvation.

II. THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM WILL NOT SAVE

1. Baptism
 - Who should be baptized?
 - Believers in Jesus Christ, therefore saved people.
 - Every saved person should be baptized.
 - Acts 2:41
 - Acts 8:9-13
 - Acts 8:29-38
 - Baptism WILL NOT save for in baptism one gets WET, not saved.
 - There is no record in the New Testament of ANY unsaved person being baptized.
 - Children are baptized ONLY when they are old enough to understand the true meaning of salvation and then how to believe what they understand.
2. When should a believer be baptized?
 - As soon as possible after receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.
 - Acts 2:41
 - Acts 8:35-38
 - Acts 16:30-34
 - The Christian life is a process of spiritual growth and Baptism is the first step after being saved.

III. WHY SHOULD A BELIEVER IN JESUS BE BAPTIZED?

1. Jesus commanded that believers in Him be baptized. Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ.
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - 1 Peter 3:21
2. Follow the example Jesus set.
 - Mark 1:9
3. Demonstrate that one is really a believer in Jesus Christ.
 - 1 John 2:3

IV. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It is an identification.
 - With Jesus Christ - a public testimony that one is a follower of Him.
 - With the local Church - a condition of being a member in most Churches.
 - With the truth of the Gospel.
2. It symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ which is the true meaning of the Gospel.
 - Romans 6:1-6
3. It symbolizes a desire to walk in newness of life as the Holy Spirit leads.

NOTE: Baptism will NOT save. It is ONLY an outward expression of an inward condition of one's heart.

V. WHY BAPTIZE BY IMMERSION?

1. It is the Biblical mode of baptism.
 - Jesus was immersed - Matthew 3:16
 - The Ethiopian was immersed - Acts 8:38-39
2. Baptize is from the Greek "baptizo" meaning to immerse or overwhelm.
3. Other modes do not picture "death, burial and resurrection."
4. Changing the manner of baptism has led to doctrinal error.
 - Infant baptism
 - Baptismal regeneration (saves)

CONCLUSION:

1. Apply your own conclusio