

NEWCOMERS CLASS # 7

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORDS'S SUPPER AND WATER BAPTISM

PART I – THE LORD'S SUPPER

PART 2 – WATER BAPTISM

I. THE LORD'S SUPPER – RITUALS SET UP THAT CAUSE DIVISION

- A. The frequency of taking communion – how often is often?
- B. Communion at a closed table – only those part of the sponsoring group are welcome to participate in communion.
- C. Communion at an open table – everyone is responsible for themselves. You must examine yourself and if you are taking communion with a wrong attitude it is between you and God.
- D. What actually happens to the elements (bread and wine) during communion?
 - 1. Transubstantiation – the elements become the actual body and blood of Christ.
 - 2. Consubstantiation – represents the body and blood of Christ.
- E. What utensils should be used at the communion table? Should there literally be one cup? Should we use wine, grape juice or something else?

II. NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTS ON COMMUNION

- A. The rendition in Matthew 26:26
- B. Mark 14:22 – Took bread, blessed it, broke it, took wine blessed it and everyone drank.
- C. Luke 22:19 – Shows us the last supper as a back drop of Jesus' betrayal.
- D. I Corinthians 10:16 – Bread/drink – common union of Jesus' body. As partakers of communion we should view it as a lifestyle.
- E. I Corinthians 11 – There was a “love feast” before the Lord's Supper. We need to be mindful of our attitude at the communion table. There is a penalty in the word of God for eating and drinking unworthily.

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III. TYPES AND SHADOWS OF COMMUNION

- A. The Passover Feast was the forerunner of the Lord's Supper.
 - 1. During Passover the Lamb's blood was placed on the door posts to cause the angel of death to spare the children of Israel.
 - 2. They ate bitter herbs and drank from several cups.
- B. Jesus changed the process – the bread became a ***symbol*** of Jesus' body and the cup a symbol of His blood. Jesus brings us a new covenant. He is the Messiah and He will come again.
- C. In his Epistles, Paul teaches us that the cup at communion is an important ***sign*** of Christ's return. Example: The courtship of a Jewish couple.
- D. Communion reminds us that redemption from our sin cost Jesus His life and the Father His only son. In addition, it is a reminder of Jesus' imminent return as a coming King who will receive His Bride.

General Comment: In our church we celebrate Communion as church on the ***fifth*** Sunday. Various ministries/home fellowships celebrate communion at least once a year as a group. As a church we generally combine communion with foot washing at least once or twice a year. If we have communion with a small group we sometimes use a single cup.

PART 2 – WATER BAPTISM

Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15 – Jesus ***commanded*** His disciples that they should be ***baptized***. It is an appropriate response to belief in the gospel. The judgment following the absence of water baptism comes not because of the act but because absence of water baptism implies the absence of belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING WATER BAPTISM

- A. How should you be baptized?
 - 1. Immersion – dunk one time, dunk three times, dunk backward or forward
 - 2. Sprinkled
 - 3. Pour water over the head

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- B. Where should you be baptized?
1. In a church building – a sanctified place
 2. In living (running) water like a lake or stream
- C. Who should baptize?
1. Anyone
 2. A Deacon
 3. An Elder or Leader
- D. What should be said to the baptismal candidate?
1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 2. The name of Jesus
 3. Jesus Christ
 4. The Lord Jesus Christ
 5. The Lord
 6. The Book of Acts said four different things throughout the text.
- E. What do people believe happens in Water Baptism?
1. People get saved – there is redemption from sin in water baptism.
 2. It is a sign of salvation
 3. The Holy Spirit comes

II. DIFFERENT EXAMPLES OF WATER BAPTISM IN THE SCRIPTURES

- A. Acts 2:38, 8:38 (Ethiopian Eunuch) – There was baptism in Jesus' name after repentance from dead works and faith towards God.
- B. At Rhema we perform believer's baptism. We immerse in water because *baptizo* means to bury, dip, immerse overwhelm.

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- C. Paul was baptized in Acts 9:18
- D. Acts 10:48 – Cornelius was baptized in the name of the Lord.
- E. Acts 22:16 – Paul recounts his baptism.
- F. Acts 19 – Paul goes to Ephesus – the followers were baptized only into John’s baptism. Paul preached Christ to them and then they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- G. Should a person be baptized more than once?
 - 1. It depends on how and why you were baptized originally.
 - 2. Must always believe in Jesus Christ before biblical baptism takes place.

III. WHY DO WE GET BAPTIZED?

- A. Romans 6:3 – unite us into the death and burial of the Lord Jesus.
- B. I Corinthians 12:13 – the place of burial of the old nature – the old way of life. It is a sign that we are in Christ and that our flesh is under a new government.
- C. I Corinthian 10 – we declare our freedom from bondage. Egypt is gone forever. There is an identity change now that I have left Egypt.
- D. Galatians 3:27 – when we are baptized we put on Christ’s nature and character. We take on the name of the bridegroom.
- E. Colossians 2:10-12 (see also Philippians 3:3) – there is a place in water baptism where there is a circumcision of the heart – our heart is now sensitive to God.

The practice at Rhema – We baptize in the pool in our sanctuary. We practice believer’s baptism and use full immersion. Baptism is done by the elders or deacons. We dunk one time backwards and we say: **To the glory of God the Father, we baptize you into the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that you may rise and walk in newness of life through the power of the Holy Spirit.**