

Ordinance of Baptism 2022-05-22

Romans 6:3-5

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

....COVID affected much including the way we do church....offering, greeting, ordinances!

ordinance is a symbolic ceremony Jesus instituted/ordained to be observed until He returns.

- Does not create faith/salvation but strengthens Christian's spiritual life when participate in.
 - Picture central truths of Gospel: Jesus Christ's death, burial, resurrection

2 ordinances Jesus instituted are baptism and Last Supper/Communion. 1 Corinthians 11:24-26, Matthew 28:19-20

- Baptism related to water (Jordan); Last Supper related to blood (Calvary, 1 John 5:6).
- Baptism primarily individual; Last Supper corporate in emphasis.
- Baptism does not NEED repeating; Last Supper regularly repeated.
- Baptism is part of initiation into faith; Last Supper part of continuance in faith.
 - Baptism is publicly identifying with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and His people.

Not "altar call" (nowhere in Scripture) but universal New Testament outward sign of prior inward cleansing from sin and one's union with Jesus Christ. Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 3:21, Acts 2:38

- Not continuation/replace of circumcision. Deuteronomy 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Romans 2:25-29
 - Circumcision not limited to only those with genuine saving faith, whose hearts circumcised spiritually.

Baptism in no way saves us nor is necessary to somehow complete our salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10 & 11:6

- justification takes place at point of saving faith, not water baptism
 - Baptism is an expression of already existing faith so only for believers.

Not need baptism to be saved, but if saved, should be baptized out of obedience to Jesus.

- We know of no unbaptized New Testament believers except thief on cross due to unique circumstances. Luke 23:43
 - If Christian but not baptized....in obedience to Jesus Christ...be baptized!

'believers' baptism is New Testament pattern: faith in Jesus Christ 1st then baptism Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:44

- Reason LEFC does not baptize infants.....reverses New Testament biblical pattern. Acts 2:38
 - LEFC infant 'dedications' similar to Bible dedications. Samuel & Jesus

Mode of New Testament baptism was immersion....consistent with meaning of "Baptize" and its symbolism:

- Gk *bapto* = to dip, immerse, plunge something underneath water.
 - secular use....dipping cloth in dye in order to color cloth.

Baptism is a picture of 3 central facts of the Gospel, Jesus' death, burial, resurrection AND publicly proclaims Christians union with Jesus Christ... Romans 6:3-6, 11 Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Immersion portrays our death in Jesus' death....Death to old life/past, sin, self!
- Emerging is a picture of being raised with Christ to walk in newness of life.
 - Other truths: passing through the waters of judgment safely, sins washed away

Baptism is a "means of grace"...Holy Spirit uses to bring blessing to people who walk in obey to Jesus Christ.

- Strengthens/encourages faith for those baptized and the witnesses of baptism.
 - Testimonies are stories of God's gracious individual works of salvation.
- Baptized receive joy from obedience and public profession of faith
 - It's a way to confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord.
 - Publicly identifying with His church/people.
 - It's "stake in ground" when future doubt/enemy comes.

Baptism is publicly identifying with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and His people.

- After 2nd service, join us in giving great glory and praise to God for work He has done.