

Why we have Baptism, Communion and Membership

Part 3 of 8 – God’s Glory in the Church

- I. **Understanding why we practice water baptism**
- A. Spirit Baptism – All believers have been baptized by the Holy Spirit when they believed (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 3:27)
 - B. Water Baptism – All believers should be baptized with water after they believe (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:42; 8:12-13; 38-39).
 - 1. Baptism does not save and is not required for salvation.
 - 2. There is no reason to baptize babies.
 - 3. Immersion seems to be the appropriate form of baptism.
 - 4. There is no reason to delay baptism after you are saved.
- II. **Understanding why we have communion**
- A. Communion is a command of Jesus to be practiced regularly by believers (Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:17,19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
 - B. Communion is a symbol reminding us to appreciate and worship God for our salvation through the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
 - 1. *This is my body, broken for you* – Substitution was required for our sin. Christ took our punishment on the cross.
 - 2. *This cup is the New Covenant* – Christ’s sacrificial death gives us a new relationship with God based on grace.
 - 3. *Do this* – A command – We are to do this regularly.
 - 4. *In remembrance of Me* – Communion is a symbol of a spiritual reality (Does not have merit in itself)
- III. **Understanding why we have membership**
- A. How I benefit by membership
 - 1. Feeling a part of the church – *I want to participate.*
 - 2. Gives accountability – *I want help when I struggle.*
 - B. How others in the church benefit by my membership
 - 1. Who can be counted on – *We make decisions together.*
 - 2. Who is committed to our beliefs and purpose – *We agree on the main things.*