

**THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE**  
**ARTICLE 7: BAPTISM & THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.*

*The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.*

We believe these to be ordinances, not sacraments. An ordinance is a decree or a command, a sacrament implies that it somehow conveys grace to the person partaking.

**I. THE MODE OF BAPTISM**

*Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

This is usually where the heated debate begins.  
Some sprinkle. Some pour. Some splash, etc.

You cannot separate the message, meaning, and mode.

Greek word is *baptizo*.

The word meant to immerse, submerge, dip, or dunk.

It was used to describe ships that sunk in the sea.

It described cloth that was dyed in a certain color.

One Jewish historian even described a man that was murdered by baptism. In other words, he was drowned.

*Acts 8:36-38 – “They both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch and he baptized him and they came up out of the water”*

*John 3:23 - “John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim because there was much water there and people were coming and were being baptized.”*

*Matthew 3:16 - “After being baptized, Jesus came up out of the water...”*

The only mode of baptism in the Bible is immersion.

The verbs for “pour” and “sprinkle” do occur in the NT but NEVER in regards to water baptism.  
(The Holy Spirit knew those words!)

In fact, the word was created (transliterated) for English translations of the Bible.

Trinitarian formula – Matt 28:19 – salvation is a Trinitarian act: planned,

**II. THE MESSAGE OF BAPTISM**

*It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.*

**It portrays:**

**A. The physical death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior**

I Corinthians 15:3-4 - "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

**B. The spiritual death, burial, and resurrection of the saved**

Galatians 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ.

Romans 6:4 - "We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so too we might walk in newness of life."

**C. The future death, burial, and resurrection of the saint**

1 Thessalonians 4:16, For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

**III. MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM**

There are two extreme ways that people have of looking at baptism. There is one group that says baptism is necessary to go to heaven, therefore it is a big deal. There is another group that says baptism is unnecessary to go heaven, therefore it is not a big deal. In this case the truth lies exactly in the middle. Baptism is unnecessary to go to heaven, but it is a big deal. Why?

Webster defines a Baptist as a "member of a protestant denomination holding that baptism should be given only to believers after confession of faith and by immersion rather than sprinkling."

Baptism is important, not because Baptists say it is but because the Bible says it is. It is not a Baptist doctrine but a Bible doctrine.

What does the BIBLE say?

**A. Salvation**

Church of Christ sign recently said – "If you haven't been baptized then you are not saved." That is false doctrine...and damnable heresy.

Acts 2:38, And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Like in English, the Greek word "for" can have different meanings. For instance: I work for my money. This means, I work in order to obtain money. I work for my family. Does this mean that I work in order to obtain my family? No, it means because I have a family, I work.

He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. Mark 16:16

*E.G. - The Thief on the Cross  
Ephesians 2:8-9 (Jesus plus nothing)*

We can disagree about mode but to teach the necessity of baptism for salvation is false doctrine, or heresy. (Galatians 1:8)

### **B. Sequence** (*when should a person be baptized?*)

*The Biblical record is always belief followed by baptism.*

*Acts 8:12 - "But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike."*

*Acts 8:36-37 - "What prevents me from being baptized? And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart you may.'"*

This completely prohibits infant baptism.

No infant in the Bible was EVER baptized. Water baptism by immersion is a step of obedience after faith in Christ. It is a proclamation of faith in Christ, a statement of submission to Him, and an identification with His death, burial, and resurrection.

With this in view, infant baptism is not a Biblical practice. An infant cannot place his or her faith in Christ. An infant cannot make a conscious decision to obey Christ. An infant cannot understand what water baptism symbolizes. The Bible does not record any infants being baptized. Infant baptism is the origin of the sprinkling and pouring methods of baptism - as it is unwise and unsafe to immerse an infant under water. Even the method of pouring baptism fails to agree with the Bible. How does pouring or sprinkling illustrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Many Christians who practice infant baptism do so because they understand infant baptism as the new covenant equivalent of circumcision. In this view, just as circumcision joined a Hebrew to the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants, so baptism joined a person to the New Covenant of salvation through Jesus Christ. This view is unbiblical. The New Testament nowhere describes baptism as the New Covenant replacement for Old Covenant circumcision. The New Testament nowhere describes baptism as a sign of the New Covenant. It is faith in Jesus Christ that enables a person to enjoy the blessings of the New Covenant (1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15).

### **C. Submission**

The commandments of the Lord are not up for debate.  
What will people think?  
What if what I've always believed is wrong?

## **IV. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church...*

1 Corinthians 11 speaks of "coming together."

It is written to "the church of God at Corinth." (1:2)

## **VI. THE PARTS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine...*

1 CORINTHINIANS 11:23-25

## **VI. THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.*

### **A. Proclamation**

The word translated "proclaim" (v. 26) is a word which means to "proclaim, announce, declare, or speak."  
*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.* 1 Cor 11:26

The Lord's Supper itself is a witness!

It is not a witness to the resurrection. That is baptism.

### **B. Unification**

Division was a problem at Corinth and it manifest at the Lord's Supper table. (see 1 Corinthians 11:17-22)  
*I hear that divisions exist among you, and in part, I believe it.* 1 Corinthians 11:18

The table is, in part, a reminder that we all got saved the same way. Rich and poor alike.

### **C. Celebration**

*Do this in remembrance of Me.* Luke 22:19

### **D. Purification**

*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* 1 Corinthians 11:28

Communion is an incredible time of prayer and repentance.

If there is someone who you have a broken relationship, go and seek reconciliation before partaking of the meal.

### **E. Anticipation**

*I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.* Luke 22:18

*The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.*

Here is the testimony of the ordinances:

He is coming. He has come. He is coming again.