

The Church's Two Ordinances

Matthew 26:26-29, 28:16-20

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1. What do we mean by "ordinance"?

- An ordinance is an act commanded by Christ
- **Luke 22:19**
- **1 Corinthians 11:24**
- An ordinance is distinguished from a sacrament, which is a visible sign that imparts grace
- The idea that we need a sacrament to add anything to our salvation is salvation by works, not salvation by faith
- We observe the ordinances not for salvation but in obedience to Christ's commands

2. Baptism and Communion are symbols

- Baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- **Romans 6:3-5**
- Communion represents the believer's participation in the body and blood of Christ and serves as a remembrance of Christ's once for all sacrifice for sin
- **1 Corinthians 11:24-26**

3. Baptism and Communion are not merely symbolic

- The ordinances were given by God to assist us in declaring and sharing the gospel
- The act of baptism affords the opportunity for a person to testify publicly that he or she has trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Communion utilizes our senses to remind us of the sacrifice that Christ made to satisfy God's demands
- Communion allows believers to share with each other this experience of remembering until Jesus returns