

LESSON V

CHURCH ORDINANCES

The ordinances of the New Testament help us to sense the reality of spiritual truths.

I. WATER BAPTISM

A. Water Baptism is a command from Jesus, the Head of the Church.

1. **(Matt. 28:18-19)** All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (people groups), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...
2. **The Greek word for BAPTISM itself means immersion.**
 - a. **Jesus was immersed.** He is our example.
(Matt. 3:13-17) Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 - b. **The Ethiopian eunuch was immersed.**
(Acts 8:35-38) ...and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and he baptized him.
3. Water baptism is a one time cleansing ordinance just like salvation.
4. There are no New Covenant grounds for infant baptism. In water baptism your will is involved.

B. There are three important baptisms in the New Covenant.

- (Heb. 6:1-2)** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
1. **At the new birth you are baptized into Jesus Christ.** You are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ.
 2. **The second baptism is water baptism.** It is a picture of what happened in the spirit realm. The element is water and the baptizer is an authorized believer.
 - a. **(Mark 16:16)** He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. Water baptism does not save you. The emphasis is on believing.
 - b. **(Rom. 10:9-10)** If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

3. **The third baptism is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** (Matt. 3:11) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- C. **Water baptism is a statement of faith.** Water baptism symbolized Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and our death to the world and our union with Jesus when we're born again.
1. **(Rom. 6:4)** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **(I Cor. 15:36-38)** ...what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.
 - a. Going down into a watery grave, we believe we are baptized into His death.
 - b. Coming up we are raised to newness of life.
 - c. We are united together with Him. (Rom. 6:5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.
 2. **We are no longer slaves of sin.** (Rom. 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
- D. **Water baptism is taught and practiced publicly** as seen in the New Testament church, immediately after believing.
1. **(Acts 8:5-12)** But when they believed...both men and women were baptized.
 2. **(Acts 10:44-48)** Peter...he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.
 3. **(Acts 16:30-33)** and immediately he and all his family were baptized.
- E. **Water baptism is a doctrine held and practiced by all Christian churches** in one form or another.

II. LAYING ON OF HANDS

- A. **Laying on of hands is a simple belief that power or anointing or any other necessary quality of the Holy Spirit can be transmitted from one person to another through touching.**
- B. **Practiced in the Old and New Testament.**
1. **(Num. 8:10-11)** So you shall bring the Levites before the Lord, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites.
 2. **(Gen. 48:14)** Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

3. **(Acts 28:8)** Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.
4. **Jesus is our example.**
 - a. **(Luke 4:40)** Now when the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.
 - b. **(Luke 7:14)** Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, young man, I say to you, arise.
 - c. **(Mark 10:13-16)** Jesus put His hands on children and blessed them. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

C. Healing and miracles come by the laying on of hands.

1. **(Mark 5:22-24, 35-41)** ...one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."
2. **The touch of faith.**
 - a. **(Mark 5:25-34)** For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ...And Jesus, immediately knowing that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ...And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well."
 - b. **The laying on of hands will not heal you.** It's your faith that draws on the anointing. Jesus knew that power (anointing) had gone out of Him.
3. **(Acts 5:12)** And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people.

D. Laying on of hands for service or ordination.

1. **(Acts 6:3,6)** ...seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ...whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
2. **(I Tim. 4:14)** Do not neglect the gift that is in you by prophecy with the laying of hands of the presbytery.
3. **(Acts 13:2-4)** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and **laid hands on them**, they sent them away.

E. Receiving the Holy Spirit.

1. **(Acts 8:16-18)** They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.
2. **(Acts 9:17)** And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
3. **(Acts 19:6)** And when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

III. **COMMUNION - THE LORD'S SUPPER**

A. **Communion means the act of sharing or fellowship.**

1. **(I John 1:3)** ... and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
2. **(I John 1:7)** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
3. **(I Cor. 1:9)** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. **Communion is the Lord's command.** He called it "the new covenant in My blood."

1. **(Mark 14:24)** And he said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."
2. The Apostle Paul received revelation from the Lord regarding communion. **(I Cor. 11:23-34)** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread...
3. We are to take communion often. In taking communion you associate yourself with the Lord's death. **(I Cor. 11:23-26)** (vs. 25)...Do this often as you drink (it) to call Me affectionately to remembrance. (vs. 26...For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are representing and signifying and proclaiming the fact of the Lord's death until He comes (again). (Amplified)

C. **The elements of communion.**

1. **Bread - symbolizes the broken body of Christ.**
 - a. **(I Cor. 11:23-24)** ...that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
 - b. Healing is provided in the broken body of Christ in the new covenant.
2. **Cup - symbolizes the new covenant in His blood, which includes forgiveness of sins and relationship with the Father.**

- a. **(I Cor. 11:25)** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
- b. **(I John 1:9)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.
- c. **(I Cor. 10:16)** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

D. Eating and drinking unworthily.

- 1. **(I Cor. 11:17-22)** ...I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. Therefore, when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of the others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.
- 2. We must come to the communion table giving it honor as our salvation (health, safety, soundness, wholeness and deliverance.)
- 3. **(I Cor. 11:27)** Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

E. Judge yourself and then receive. (I Cor. 11:28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of that cup.

- 1. **(I Cor. 11:29-30)** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you and many sleep.
- 2. **(I Cor. 11:31-34)** For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord that we may not be condemned with the world.

All scriptures quoted are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise stated.
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