

YOU NEED BIBLICAL ORDINANCES

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4; ROMANS 6:3-5

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – NOVEMBER 27, 2022

BIBLICAL ORDINANCES

(From [12 Traits of a Biblical Church](#))

A church is characterized by the biblical ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and it is only administered to those who give credible evidence that they are born-again believers in Jesus Christ. All believers are expected to be baptized. The Lord's Supper is celebrated regularly by a healthy church in remembrance of the death of Jesus, as a visible sermon of the gospel, and in anticipation of His return.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV

1 Now I would remind you, brothers of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

Romans 6:3-5 ESV

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 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.

SERMON RECAP

The Gospel has a historical reality and a personal reality.

1. Our salvation is based on what God has done for us in Christ.
 - Jesus died for our sins. (Just one of our sins makes us 100% guilty before God.)
 - Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - The Gospel isn't just "the gate," but it is also "the ground" of the Christian life.
2. Our identity is based on what God has done for us in Christ.
 - The Gospel isn't just good news about what God has done for us in Christ; It's also good news about what God had done to us in Christ.
 - Union with Christ equals the covenant bond with Jesus that enables believers to enjoy all the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection.
3. The ordinances are gifts from God that remind us of who we are in light of what Christ has done. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are physical symbols of a spiritual reality.
 - Baptism is a public declaration of our initial identification with Christ and His church.
 - The Lord's Supper is a public celebration of our continual identification with Christ and His church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. Read these passages aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about them. Try not to move into interpretation of the passages or application of what you have read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What points does Paul make about the gospel and what must believers do? (1 Cor. 15:1-2)

- What did Jesus do for believers? (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
- How are believers united with Jesus? (Rom. 6:3-5)
- Summarize these two passages in your own words.

What does the passage mean?

1. The Gospel is not cheap or easy. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
 - What does it mean that Jesus died for our sins? (1 Pet. 3:18)
 - What is the significance of Old Testament prophecy to unfolding history? (Isa. 53:4-6; 10)
 - What are the historical facts of the Gospel and what do they mean? (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
2. The Gospel identifies us with Jesus' righteousness. (Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:23-29)
 - How does living united to Jesus change our relationship to sin? (Eph. 2:1-10)
 - What does baptism symbolize historically and presently? (Col. 2:12; Col. 3:1-3)
 - What does it mean to be "crucified with Christ" in baptism? (Gal. 2:20)
 - What does the Lord's Supper symbolize? (1 Cor. 11:23-27)
 - What does it mean to examine ourselves before taking the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor. 11:28-29)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply these passages to our lives?

1. Living the Gospel is an expression of our faith.
 - How do you "hold fast to the word I preached to you" (the Gospel) and what results if you don't?
 - How can you better associate with Jesus, rather than with Adam?
2. Are there any specific ways that baptism might be motivating you to live out the great commission more faithfully?
 - What did your baptism publicly declare and how are you living in "the newness of life?"
 - How does the way you live your life illustrate what you believe?
 - How would someone else know that you died with Christ and that you now live with Him?
3. Practicing biblical ordinances is a continuation of our relationship with Jesus and His church.
 - How is baptism helpful and encouraging for the entire church, and, how does partaking in biblical ordinances emphasize that we are family members?
 - Of what do the bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper remind us?
 - Does becoming a Christian and being baptized mean that you'll live a sinless life? Explain.
 - Why must believers examine themselves before taking the Lord's Supper?
4. Have you been baptized yet? If not, what might be keeping you from taking that step of obedience?
 - In the Bible, baptism always follows repentance and faith in Christ. If you have not been baptized as a follower of Jesus what should you do? We encourage you to talk with one of our pastors if you have any questions about baptism!
5. Consider 1 Corinthians 11. How do you need to Look Back, Look Forward, and/or Look Around?
 - Look Back - Where do you need to be reminded of what Christ has accomplished for you through his death and resurrection?
 - Look Forward - Are there any challenges or situations where you need to cling to the hope that Jesus is coming back?
 - Look Around - Do you have any relationships in the family of faith that are in need of repair or restoration? How can you take some steps this week to seek healing in that relationship?

LEADER NOTES

Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group:

1. As a reminder, due to annual Church Group rhythms, Sermon Discussion Guides will not be provided during the month of December. Some groups will be working through the MBC Christmas

Devotional together. These devotionals are available at all MBC locations. We pray your group will have a sweet season of celebrating the birth of Christ together!

1. Visit the [Global Outreach Weekly Prayer Focus](#) each week to learn about an unreached region of world and the ways we can join together in prayer for them. You can see the full 2022 Global Outreach Prayer Guide [HERE](#).