



Baptism is a public acknowledgement of beginning a new life. This life is new because the old way of living has been buried and the new life is lived by the power and love of Jesus Christ. When a person accepts the biblical based beliefs as followed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church their ensuing baptism is recognized and they become members of our worldwide church. Communion is a celebration of cleansing and fellowship with Jesus that takes place in the heart. When Jesus was on this earth He was baptized and originated the communion service.

Baptism:

1. Most Christian religions teach baptism in one form or another. Before we discuss form, let's look into the importance of being baptized and why we baptize.
 - a. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? John 3:5
 - i. Conversion → born of the Spirit
 - ii. Public admission → born of the water
 - b. Conversion is very spiritual. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus concerning conversion? John 3:7

- c. According to John 3:5 how important is it that we are converted and baptized?

2. Prior to His ascension Jesus issued the Gospel Commission. What is one of Jesus' charges? Matthew 28:19-20

3. Churches use many different methods of baptizing: sprinkling, pouring, immersion, through the mail, over the telephone or internet.
 - a. Concerning the different methods of baptism what does Paul state? Ephesians 4:4-6

 - b. So if there is only one baptism what type of baptism does the Bible teach? Let's see how John the baptizer baptized people? John 1:26

 - c. Okay, we have sprinkling, pouring, and immersion all with water. Where did John the baptizer conduct his baptisms? John 3:23

 - d. How does Mark identify the biblical baptism of John the baptizer? Mark 1:5

 - e. How did John the baptizer baptize Jesus? Mark 1:9-10

 - f. Mark states "in the Jordan" and "coming up from the water" as what method did John use to baptize Jesus?



4. Let's take a lesson in Greek.

- a. The Greek word used is *baptizo*.
- b. In ancient times this word described:
 - i. Immersing of cloth in dye.
 - ii. Submerging a vessel in order to fill it with liquid.
- c. The meaning is to dip, submerge, or immerse rather than pour, sprinkle, or spray.

5. In the New Testament times Philip baptized a treasurer from Ethiopia. Let's note three things about this baptism. Acts:8:35-39



Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is water*. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded

the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

- a. The Ethiopian _____ that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (cf. Matthew 16:16)
- b. They went _____ into the water.
- c. After the baptism they come _____ from the water.

Note: Philip did not sprinkle or spray this new believer and very doubtfully he did not use the telephone or the internet. He baptized the treasurer by immersion. This was the same way that John the baptizer conducted his baptisms.

6. Baptism by immersion is very important because it is a commemoration of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

- a. Many denominations teach that the seventh-day Sabbath was changed to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The Bible does not teach this. (See lesson #5)
- b. The biblical tribute of Jesus' resurrection is the rite of baptism as recorded by Paul in his letter to the church at Rome. Romans 6:3



- c. How does this work? Romans 6:4-5

- i. As Jesus was placed into the tomb we are immersed under the water by baptism.
- ii. But Jesus did not remain in the tomb. No, He arose from the tomb. At baptism the minister or elder does not keep us under the water.

- d. So what does baptism by immersion signify? Romans 6:7-8

- e. Now that we have been born again and baptized what does Paul call us? 2 Corinthians 5:17



7. The Holy Spirit had come upon the disciples just as Jesus had promised. Then Peter gave a sermon that touched many hearts. What very important four steps does Peter tell those people they must take? Acts 2:36-38
- #1: Believe that God sent Jesus as both Lord and the Messiah.
 - #2: They must repent or turn away from their sins.
 - #3: Having believed and repented they were baptized.
 - #4 When Jesus purges sin from the believer's life the Holy Spirit enters.

Communion – Our Lord's Supper:

8. Communion has two services:

- #1: Ordinance of Humility
- #2: Our Lord's Supper



9. What is the origin of celebrating the Lord's Supper? Matthew 26:17-18

10. The precursor of this ceremony goes back in history when God heard the cries of the children of Israel who had been in Egyptian slavery for some 450 years.
- God instructed the Israelites to prepare to leave for the last plague was soon to fall on Egypt. What were God's instructions and what were the Israelites to do? Exodus 12:5-7
 - How were the Israelites able to escape this plague? Exodus 12:12-13

11. All the arrangements had been made for Jesus and the disciples with one exception: no servant was available to wash the dust off their feet. No disciple would think to wash the other disciples' feet. So they just sat there. What were they worried about? Luke 22:24

- 12.



Realizing the mood of His disciples and that He would soon be crucified what did Jesus do? John 13:3-5

13. Jesus explained the significance of the foot washing with these words. John 13:10

14. Following the supper what command did Jesus give? John 13:13-17

Note: As Jesus' action of washing His disciples' feet was to unify them in like manner the Ordinance of Humility is the opportunity for church members clear away any contentions that have arisen. When this service is completed the church should be unified and ready to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

15. What happened when Jesus came to Peter to wash his feet? John 13:6-9

16. Jesus gave the following reply and summarized the purpose of this ordinance. John 13:10

Note: Jesus ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express our willingness to serve one another, and to unite our hearts in love.

17. Read Paul's summarization of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What are the two sacraments of the Lord's Supper?

- a. What does the bread represent? Christ's broken body
- b. What does the cup represent? The new covenant relationship available by Christ's shed blood.
- c. Overall these two sacraments should bring us to the cross of Jesus. Concerning Calvary what did Jesus ask us to do in celebrating the Lord's Supper?
Do this in remembrance of Me.



18. What should we remember? Isaiah 53:4-5

19. What was in the cup? Matthew 26:29 (cf. Mark 14:25; Luke 22:17-18)

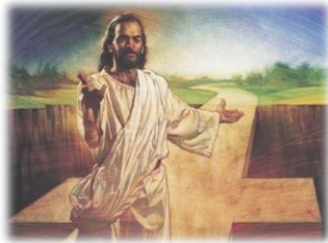
Note: The "fruit of the vine" signifies unfermented grape juice. Just before a criminal would be nailed to the cross the soldiers would offer wine mixed with myrrh to mitigate the suffering. When this mixture was offered to Jesus He refused it. (Mark 15:23; Matthew 27:33-35)



20. Celebrating the Lord's Supper → Paul corrects the church members in Corinth for the way they were participating in the Lord's Supper. The rich were having a feast while the poor were going hungry. There was no sharing, very little respect and some were drunk. Paul is

upset with these practices because they were reverting back to their feasts in honor of the pagan gods. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

- a. We should celebrate these ceremonies with seriousness and thanks for what Jesus has done for us.
- b. We should never be disrespectful about the sacraments.
- c. We should judge our self only.
- d. If necessary, we should seek forgiveness from those we have wronged.
- e. When the Communion Service is completed the church members should be united.



A Time for Commitment:

Following his sermon at Pentecost the people were convicted and asked Peter and the other apostles what they should do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Many other studies remain but you must know that no person knows all there is about the Bible and our salvation provided by Jesus. As you continue to study and pray you will become more familiar with Jesus and the life saving relationship He offers.

Do you desire to be baptized after further studies?

☐ Yes

☐ No, not at this time.

Our next lesson: Our One and Only High Priest in Heaven