

Questions to Consider

1. If you have not already done so, take time this week to go to gbclorton.com/membership, then scroll down and click on the Discover Booklet. Once there, spend a few minutes reading Lesson 5, about the local church.
2. Read Acts 2:41-42. What are the key elements described of life in the local church? How do you regularly participate in each?
3. Read John 6:53-58. In the act of communion, what spiritual significance is there for you as a believer that is related to these words of Jesus?
4. What aspect of communion is seen in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17? How does this shape your thinking as you take the bread and the cup?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32. How do we apply these verses in practice at Grace? What does this time of self-examination look like for you? Two questions you might ask yourself are: 1. Are there sins I need to confess and repent of before the Lord? 2. Am I living in peace and unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ?
6. If you are a parent, did this teaching help you think about your children's participation in the Lord's Supper? If so, how?

For further reading: *Understanding the Lord's Supper* (2016) by Bobby Jamieson

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

www.gbclorton.com/sermons

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

When You Come Together Various Scriptures

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In the New Testament, we often see that when a person is saved, he or she is baptized, publicly declaring faith in Jesus Christ. That baptized believer is added to a local church (as a member) to take part in the life of the body, including celebrations of the Lord's Supper. Today, we consider what the New Testament teaches about the meaning, manner, and importance of the Lord's Supper.

Review

Baptism has always played a crucial role for the body of Christ in terms of marking out those who belong to Christ. It's the first act of obedience Jesus commanded because it is the new believer stating his or her pledge to follow Jesus.

We believe the New Testament links baptism and membership. Because of this, we do not baptize adults who do not desire to commit to membership. In unique circumstances, we would baptize an adult if they are unable to covenant with GBC in membership, yet are soon to do so with another biblical church. (GBC Discover booklet)

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

A visible reminder for believers of the Savior's death and how sin deserved the wrath that He bore.

An anticipation of the ultimate fulfillment of what's depicted in communion.

Our communion with our Savior and our dependence on Him for full spiritual nourishment.

Our communion with fellow believers

The Manner of the Lord's Supper

It is done by the gathered body, as was the practice of the early church,

It is done with reverence, considering the reality of our own sin and examining our own hearts.

From the Grace Bible Church *Discover* booklet:

The Lord's Supper is for Christians, those who have turned from their sins and are trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. The Lord's Supper is a corporate meal.

Since baptism is the "initiating" ordinance observed by disciples of Jesus, it is appropriate that, ordinarily, those who participate in the Lord's Supper have been baptized. Having said that, Christians who have yet to be baptized following professed faith in Christ are allowed to participate, while being urged, in obedience to Jesus, to be baptized as soon as possible.