



“The Greek word *mysterion* was later often given the Latin *sacramentum*, and the rites themselves came to be spoken of as *sacramenta*. The word *sacramentum* meant both ‘a thing set apart as sacred’ and ‘a military oath of obedience as administered by the commander.’ The use of this word for baptism and the Lord’s Supper affected the thought about these rites, and they tended to be regarded as conveying grace in themselves, rather than as relating men through faith to Christ.” (Evangelical Dictionary of Theology)

NOTE: A religious rite must possess four ingredients to be considered an ordinance: (1) it must symbolize saving truth; (2) its observance must be commanded by the Lord; (3) there must be a specific command for perpetuation; and (4) there must be biblical evidence of historical practice by the early church. The ordinance of baptism reminds us of our union with Christ, as we identify with him in his death, burial, and resurrection. The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper reminds us of our communion with him.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

Read **Matthew 28:16-20**. These are Jesus’ final instructions to his disciples before his ascension back to heaven, known as the Great Commission. For how long are we to engage in the mission of making disciples, and what two tasks are involved in this process? _____

What two spiritual realities are symbolized by the mode of baptism by immersion (Romans 6:1-4)? _____

Some churches practice infant baptism based on Acts 16:29-34 and closely connect the rite with salvation. We are convinced the Bible teaches what we call “believer’s baptism.” Read the following passages in Acts and note the order of belief and baptism:

- Acts 2:37-41 _____
- Acts 8:4-13 _____
- Acts 10:44-48 _____
- Acts 16:11-15 _____
- Acts 16:25-34 _____
- Acts 18:1-8 _____

THE ORDINANCE OF COMMUNION

When did Jesus Christ institute the observance of the Lord’s Supper (Mark 14:22-25)? _____

What do the elements of the bread and the cup symbolize (Luke 22:14-20)? _____

Fill in the missing words. According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-34, communion is to be a time of:

- Commemoration (vv. 23-25) “do this in _____ of me”
- Proclamation (v. 26a) “you _____ the Lord’s death”
- Anticipation (v. 26b) “you proclaim the Lord’s death until he _____”
- Examination (vv. 27-31) “a man ought to _____ himself before he eats”
- Purification (v. 32) “When we are judged by the Lord we are being _____”
- Edification (v. 33) “when you come together to eat, _____ for each other”