

Hope Community Church

Week 9 - Our Statement of Faith: The Ordinances

Ordinance: a prescribed religious rite.

Synonyms: rite, ritual, ceremony, sacrament, observance, service, usage, institution, practice

? What are some religious ordinances you are familiar with?

? What are some of your experiences with baptism and communion? Have you had any discussions with Christians or non-Christians about these ordinances?

From Hope's Statement of Faith:

The Ordinances: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the public declaration of a believer's faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins. We believe that immersion of the believer in water in the name of the triune God is the richest expression of the New Testament example. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Part I: Baptism

Mark 1:9-11 (NIV)

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38-41 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

? Why would Jesus need to be baptized if he never sinned?

? What are the differences between baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism?

? From these scriptures, who should be baptized?

“Through Peter’s preaching, the Holy Spirit performs his life-giving work and cuts people to the heart. If what Peter declares is truly true, what must they do? They must repent—agreeing with God about the sinfulness of their sin and looking in faith to Jesus—and enter the church through the covenant sign and seal of baptism. As rebels repent and are baptized in faith, they are marked as citizens of God’s new-covenant community and receive all the blessings God promised, including forgiveness and the gift of the indwelling Spirit.”

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pentecost-first-of-the-last-days/>

Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

? What are some outward symbols of commitments made in your heart?

Immersion is the “richest expression” of baptism, so we practice baptism in this way at Hope.

? How does baptism bring unity?

? What do these scriptures say about our brand-new life?

The word “baptize” comes from Greek and means “to immerse or dip under water”. -
to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one’s self, bathe to overwhelm

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/baptizo.html>

Part II: The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-30 (NIV)

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



What is the context of these verses?



What does the Passover feast commemorate?

? What can we make of the intimacy of Jesus reclining against his disciples during this meal?

? Why is it significant that Jesus refers to the cup as the “blood of the covenant?”

TRICLINIUM
tri-klin'-ti-um (Latin from Greek triklinion, from tri and kline, "a couch"):
A couch for reclining at meals among the ancient Romans, arranged along three sides of a square, the fourth side being left open for bringing in food or tables, when these were used. In the larger Roman houses the dining-rooms consisted of small alcoves in the atrium arranged to receive triclinia.

<https://biblehub.com/topical/t/triclinium.htm>

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

? What is the context of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians?

? Verse 24 says “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” What is the “remembrance” of this verse?

? How does communion “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes?”

For Discussion and Accountability

? In what areas of our lives do we need to publicly declare our faith in Christ alone? How can we do that, in addition to baptism?

? How can we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes in our daily lives?