

The Ordinances of the Church: Baptism and Communion
September 13th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Romans 6:1-11, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Romans 6:1-11 give us some context for the Christian practice of Baptism. What is being displayed in a person's baptism? In what various ways are the words dead and alive used in these verses?
2. Verse 5 says that Christians have been united with Christ in both his death and resurrection. Why is this important (v.5-7)?
3. Baptism is a work, or an act. We believe that Christians are saved by faith, not works. So, why is baptism a necessary step for all believers to take?
4. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 give context for the practice of taking the Lord's Supper together. According to these verse, what is the point of the Lord's supper? How might we get the way we celebrate it wrong?
5. According to verse 17, how were the Corinthians undermining the purpose of the Lord's supper? How are we also in danger of doing so?
6. Read verses 23-34. When we share the Lord's supper, what do we remember? What do we highlight as the central message of Christianity? What do we look forward to together?

“It is an indisputable fact of church history that the two sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper have always functioned as the primary marks of Christian identity and the primary works of Christian initiation and renewal”

-Michael Svigel

NEXT STEPS

- This week we will be taking part in these 2 ordinances in our services. Take some time to reflect on what baptism and the Lord's Supper means, on your own story and fellowship with the Lord. Prepare your heart for worship by examining yourself and dealing with anything that keeps you from enjoying the Lord's presence. Confess it to someone, repent (specifiially stating what you are turning from and to) and believing the Gospel to help you overcome.
- Each baptism will be accompanied by the persons story of conversion. What is your story? Have you been baptized so that you can full devote yourself to and enter into the fellowship of the church?