

The Church part 5

1. What are sacraments?
 - Practices which allow participants to enter into God's grace.
 - Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, Confession, Marriage, Holy orders, Last Rites/anointing the sick
2. What are ordinances?
 - Ordinance – outward action representing a spiritual reality.
 - Things we do in obedience to specific commands of Christ
3. What is Believer's Baptism?
 - Believer's baptism by immersion represents an act of obedience to Christ's command.
 - Early Baptists: baptism was the expression of a sober, sacred vow with heavy expectations for church membership and a life of selfless service to Christ.
 - Candidates needed to have the maturity to make such a commitment.
4. Of what is Believer's Baptism a symbol?
 - Romans 6:3-4
 - The individual has spiritually participated in the death, burial of Christ and has been raised to new life in Christ
 - Public affirmation of what God has done in the believer's life
 - The believer commits to walk in obedience to Christ and in unity with other believers
5. Why do some churches practice infant baptism?
 - Sacrament for salvation and the church's commitment to raise and nurture the child in the Lord.
6. What is alien immersion?
 - Holdover from Landmarkism: Baptist churches were the only true churches
 - False baptism in a false church, not by a Baptist minister
7. What is Open membership?
 - Churches accept people on the basis of their profession of faith in Christ, regardless whether it came before or after their baptism.
 - Don't insist those baptized as infants submit to immersion as adults
 - What does any of this matter?
8. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?
 - **Transubstantiation** – Catholics
 - The actual blood and body of Christ; only priests take the blood
 - Communion necessary to receive God's grace – breaking his body and shedding his blood each time.
 - Contradicts scripture that says the cross was a complete and effective sacrifice once and for all.

- **Consubstantiation** –
 - Christ is present in the bread and wine, but it is not actually his body.
 - Lutherans; the “Host”
- **Symbolic Memorial** – by faith the believer, through Communion, enters into a special spiritual union with Christ the Savior. This is why we must examine ourselves. Also why we celebrate open communion. We have no obligation to protect the host from being used improperly, because we don’t believe Christ’s presence actually dwells there.

9. How should we take the Lord’s Supper?

1. As a remembrance – a memorial, or reenactment of Christ’s death for us
2. As an act of thanksgiving: Eucharist, for our salvation
3. As an act of communion or fellowship – unites us spiritually with Christ and with one another.
4. As an act of hope – Christ is coming again.

10. Why do we take the Lord’s Supper only four times a year?

- Goes back 500 years or so to Ulrich Zwingli.