

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
**James M. Duncan, Pastor**  
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**“WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE CHURCH ORDINANCES  
ON THE LORD’S SUPPER”**

**Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22: 14-23**

In this series on “The Foundations on Which we Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe” in our last message I spoke about “The Church Of The Living God” and the ordinance of BAPTISM (1 Tim.3:15; Matt.16:17-19) We KNOW that the church is built on the Rock Jesus Christ and that He is the head of the church and he calls the church His Body and His Bride. The church is the “**ekklesia**” the assembled body of born-again believer who gather to pray, praise and preach the Word of God.

Now this morning as I continue to speak about the **ordinances of the church of the Living God**. As a Bible Believing New Testament church, we have two and only two ordinances. These are, of course, **Baptism**, which we call the **initial ordinance**, and the **Lord's Supper**, the **recurrent ordinance**. Our view is that the ordinances, both Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are magnificent memorials of gospel truth.

An **ordinance according to** Dictionary.com is defined it as: “an authoritative rule or law; a decree or command.” So, it is a decree or command. Therefore, I believe that there are two decrees that Jesus gave as an example for us to follow. And they are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Now remember they are not a **sacrament** (a church ritual that is thought to have saving values). The Bible clearly states that through Christ alone we are saved (**Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5**). It is a command to be obeyed a decree. It works no grace or special spiritual operation.

There are - Three distinguishing **marks** characterize the New Testament ordinances:

- ◆ They were **instituted** by Christ.
- ◆ They were **taught** by the apostles.
- ◆ They were **practiced** by the early church.

We found that to be true concerning the ordinance of **baptism** and it is also true concerning the **Lord’s Supper**. It was:

- ⇒ **Instituted by Christ: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20.**
- ⇒ **Taught by the apostles: 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.**
- ⇒ **Practiced by the early church: Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:14-**

There are three **views** concerning the Lord's Supper:

1. **Transubstantiation**
2. **Consubstantiation**
3. **Memorial**

What is The **Biblical meaning** of the Lord's Supper?

It is a **reminder** of the Lord's death. We eat the bread and drink the cup, as Christ says, “**in remembrance of Me**” (**1 Corinthians 11:24-25**). By this feast we “proclaim the Lord's death till He comes” (**v.26**). When we, as obedient believers, participate in the Communion service, we manifest a mutual faith and fellowship in His death for us (**1 Corinthians 10:16-17**).

By reading our Lord’s word we are told of at least three things the Lord’s Supper memorializes or calls to our remembrance.

1. *Remember- the bread is symbolic of the broken body of our Lord.*
2. *Remember - the cup is symbolic of the blood of the covenant.*
3. *We remember - that He is coming again to take us home.*

**There are at least five things these ordinances call us to do. First of all, they call us to...**

1. **Reflect**
2. **Remember**
3. **Repentance**
4. **Reconcile**
5. **Recommitment**

Just as baptism has to do with our obedience to Christ, so also does our participation in the Lord's Table (Communion). How is your participation in the Lord's Table? Is it *regular or random*? And when you are participating--is it *mechanical or meaningful*? The key to making the Lord's Table all that He designed it to be is **careful, intentional preparation** of your heart.