



AWESOME CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Study 4 Sacraments

You're "born again" into the family of God! Nothing more that you can do will make you more in God's family or less born again than you already are.

However there are several things that Christians do which convey awesome symbolic messages and, when done rightly, will help us in our new life. They are the "**Lord's Supper**" and "**Baptism**."

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Just a few hours before he was betrayed Jesus did an unusual thing. Fill in from Matthew 26: 26-28 what our Lord asked his disciples to do with the bread and with the cup that he gave them.

"Jesus took Bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, _____
_____ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, _____
This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin's."

Please also write what Jesus said in John 6: 35 and **learn it off by heart.**

"Then Jesus declared, _____

HOW CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

For over 2,000 years Christians have been repeating this ceremony in one way or another. There are numerous variations within Church communities concerning how to do it. Also, some churches call the Lord's supper by special names such as 'sacrament,' 'eucharist,' or 'communion,' while others prefer to simply think of it as 'remembering.' In whatever case Christians everywhere put a very high value on this sacrament and find joy, strength and meaning whenever they share it.

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 tells us what is most important:

What does the broken bread remind us of? _____
 What does the cup we drink remind us of? _____

When all is said and done, the Lord's Supper is about reconciliation. Tragically, the very thing that speaks of peace has been the centre of arguments and division among Christians. In study one we asked why God was so disappointed with peoples insincerity doing the old sacred rituals. But compare Isaiah 1: 13-14 with 1 Corinthians 11:17-22,27. Do you think there is much difference?

AWESOME WITNESS OR DEAD RITUAL

When Christianity was new, the believers used to gather for a meal together. At the end of their meal they would dedicate a small part of it to remembering what Jesus did for them. It is this which developed into our modern 'communion.' Study these two examples from Acts 2: 42-47 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-27. They both followed the same procedure but concerning one, God says, "*It is not the Lord's Supper you eat!*" The model was the same but the attitude vastly different. Notice the extreme contrast as you write the verse references in each of the boxes opposite. (as shown)

They gave to anyone who had need.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They didn't care if some went hungry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They broke bread together with gladness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They had divisions and arguments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They got amazing results with the people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Their meetings did more harm than good.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acts 2



CHRISTIAN BAPTISM?

The word "baptism" is the English form of a Greek word, "baptizo," which literally means to **immerse**, to **dip**, to **plunge**, to **submerge**, i.e. to completely cover with water. Many years ago, when the Bible was first being written in English, the translators didn't want to upset the King by translating into its exact English meaning. So they simply didn't translate it. They just left it as it was. So, until this day, some think that being "christened" is the same as being baptised. This is unfortunate because baptism is an outward act which conveys a "picture" and it is important that this meaning is not lost. Compare Mark 1: 9-10, John 3: 23 and Acts 8: 38. Notice that Jesus and his followers went **into** the water and then came **up out** of the water, giving us a pattern copy.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Study the story of Christ's baptism in Matthew 3: 13-17. John knew that Jesus didn't need to be baptised for his own sake because he had never sinned. That's why John tried to stop him. So why did Jesus get baptised? It was to provide an example for us. Fill in the gap here from verse 15:

"Jesus replied, let it be so now; _____ to fulfil all righteousness."

Jesus was baptised by: (circle the correct answer)

SPRINKLING?

IMMERSION?

POURING?

What happened immediately after he was baptised?

WHO MAY BE BAPTISED IN WATER?

In the book of Acts (which is the history of the early church) anyone who repented of their sins and believed the good news was baptised in water. Those who were old enough to make an intelligent, believing decision **always** were baptised. Here are several examples:

- Those who **repented** from sin were baptised. (Acts 2: 38)
- Those who **accepted** God's message were baptised. (Acts 2: 41)
- Those who **believed** the good news were baptised. (Acts 8: 12)

WHEN SHOULD YOU GET BAPTISED?

After a while

Straightaway

Never

Study the following scriptures then tick the correct box. (Acts 2: 41, Acts 8: 35-38, Acts 16: 31-33, Acts 22: 16)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM?

Baptism in water is an outward act which strongly reinforces our inward experience of salvation. This is explained in study twelve. However if you are considering baptism, then see your Pastor soon. He will be pleased to talk about it with you.

AS POWERFUL AS YOU WANT IT

Yes, you've become a Christian. Something's definitely happened and you're beginning to grow. Now Christ offers you two very special things. How real do you want it? If you are seeking baptism in water or to participate in the Lord's supper, don't just go through the motions. Think deeply as you complete River study 12 and Rock study 2. Talk about it with your Pastor. The sacraments are as powerful as you let them be.

More studies (and answers) here:
www.5loaves2fishes.net/free-resources