

Sacraments or Ordinances of the Church

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There are only two sacraments in the true Christian Church, the body of believers. One is the Lord's Supper which is also called the Communion of Believers or the Eucharist. The other sacrament is called Believers Baptism.

Believers Baptism:

Believers Baptism was instituted to follow Jesus' example set forth in Matthew 3:13-17. Today Christian churches practice baptism several different ways; primarily by aspersion (sprinkling of water) and immersion (dipping the believers body completely under water). Since John the Baptist's time immersion baptism has been practiced by those trying to adhere most rigorously to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is more symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. True believers do not allow infant baptism since an infant cannot select Jesus' ways as his own. A parent cannot repent on behalf of the child. Also true believers do not allow unregenerated people to be baptized in the Lord's name. A confession of faith precedes the actual baptism. Water baptism is not to be confused with baptism by fire (the second baptism or baptism of the Holy Spirit) which is doctrine in the Holiness movement such as the Pentecostal Holiness organization.

The Last Supper of Jesus with the Twelve Apostles and the Establishment of Communion of Believers or The Lord's Supper:
(Called 'The Eucharist' by some)

Location: The Upper Room of a house in Jerusalem Teaching
illustrated: Jesus' Foreknowledge of His Death and Suffering
(See John 6:64, 13:1,11, 18:4, and 19:28)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them.

So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and

his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

- Luke 22:7-21 (NIV)
also Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:12-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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." 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." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 (NIV)

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