

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

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PART 5: WATER BAPTISM, COMMUNION & FOOT WASHING

WHAT IS THE CORRECT CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE?

In order to know and discern false doctrine, every saved person must first know what correct doctrine is as presented in the Bible. Let's take a look at one of the very basic beliefs of Christianity.

THREE ORDINANCES

Jesus left us with three ordinances to observe as believers in Christ:

1. Water baptism – **Matthew 28:18-20**
2. Communion – **Matthew 26:17-29; I Corinthians 11:20-34**
3. Foot washing – **John 13:1-17**

Some churches observe water baptism; although the practice varies widely with adults and infant's alike being baptized by sprinkling or immersion. Most churches observe communion and very few churches observe foot washing. Let's make one thing very clear; Jesus set the policies for his church! Christians are not allowed to pick and choose what they like or how to do it, rather they are to simply follow Jesus. **Matthew 28:18-20**

It is important to understand that the ordinances of water baptism, communion and foot washing do not play any part in the salvation process; a Christian practices them because they are saved, not to be saved!

WHERE DID WATER BAPTISM COME FROM?

- God instructed John the Baptist to preach repentance and water baptism. **Matthew 3:1-12**
- John stood in the river Jordan; people came out to him in the waters. The Greek word for baptize means to "submerge" not sprinkle.
- Before Jesus started his ministry, he came to John the Baptist so that all things could be fulfilled. **Matthew 3:13-17**
- The people who came to John the Baptist repented, but they were not BORN AGAIN at this repentance since Jesus had not yet paid for the sins of the world on the cross. **Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7**
- There is no place in the Bible that speaks of infant baptism; instead we find it emphasized repeatedly that only someone who has been born again may be baptized. **Acts 2:37-41**
- A born again believer in Christ is never baptized into a church or a denomination, rather we are baptized in Christ! **Romans 6:1-3**
- Water baptism is a sign of the death of the flesh and of the future resurrection promised to every believer in Christ! **Romans 6:4-10**

