

Why Attend the Ordinances of the Church?

“Ordinances are the [presence of] heaven on earth. Christ delights to be there with His people.”
~Thomas Boston

Why are only baptism & the Lord’s Supper biblical events that are recognized as ordinances?

Why is it important to note that these are “given by Christ to the *church*, and not to *individual* Christians”? (emphasis Dr. Whitney’s)

Dr. Whitney gives the following **reasons to attend the ordinance of baptism**:

1. You demonstrate commitment to the Great Commission. (*cf.* Matt 28:18-20)
2. You show commitment to the importance of baptism.
3. You accept a new member into the family.

Explain why each one of the above should motivate a Christian to attend a baptism of the church.

Part of baptism’s importance is what’s symbolized. What spiritual realities does baptism portray?

What was the point of Dr. Whitney using a marriage ceremony analogy regarding baptism?

Dr. Whitney gives the following **reasons to attend the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper**:

1. It is commanded by Jesus.
2. It is loved by Jesus.
3. It is spiritual participation in the body and blood of Jesus.
4. It is a memorial to Jesus.
5. It is a proclamation of the death of Jesus.
6. It is an anticipation of the second coming of Jesus.

Explain why each one of the above should motivate a Christian to attend the Lord’s Supper.

How do we know the initial command wasn’t only for the original disciples? (1 Cor 11:23-26)

What is the relevance of the word *κοινωνία* (1 Cor 10:16) in celebrating the Lord’s Supper?

How is the Lord’s Supper unique as a memorial?

How is the Lord’s Supper “a multisensory reminder that Christ’s death is central to our faith”?

The aforementioned ordinances are sometimes called, “sacraments.” But how does a Protestant understanding differ from that of the Roman Catholics? (e.g., *ex opere operato*)

From the Providence Church Statement of Faith:

- **XV. Baptism** ~ Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein each is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. While not required for salvation, it is a prerequisite to church fellowship, and to participation in the Lord's Supper.
- **XVI. The Lord's Supper** ~ The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with him, and of their church fellowship.