

## THREE

# BAPTISM & HOLY COMMUNION

## HOW CAN I IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S FAMILY?

Welcome back to the third episode of #ANewAdventure!

In this third episode, we will be introducing to you the two ordinances of our Christian faith; baptism and holy communion.

**Baptism is an act of obedience, a personal statement of faith and a public declaration of identification with Jesus Christ.**

**Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, is an ordinance to remind us of the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ.**

In this lesson, we will be going through these questions:

*What is baptism? Why should we be baptised? How, who and when should we be baptised?*

*What is holy communion? Who should take the holy communion? What should our hearts' posture be when we partake of the holy communion?*

As we understand more about these ordinances, we can then show our love to God through our obedience in following His commands.

Remember in the last lesson we talked about the “good news,” which is also called the **Gospel**? The Gospel truly is Jesus Christ himself. He is the best of news! Jesus is looking for disciples not just to believe in Him, but to follow Him. But how?

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

The verses we just read is about Jesus’ handing over his authority to his disciples. Jesus calls his disciples to a new and different life, and it starts with baptism. This is how the entire journey of following Jesus starts.

**WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?**

**Baptism does 3 things.**

**1. It illustrates Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and resurrection.**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)**

*Christ died for our sins...he was buried...and...he rose again.*

**Romans 6:4 (MSG)**

*When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.*

**Colossians 2:12 (GNT)**

*For when you were **baptised**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ.*

**2. It illustrates my \_\_\_\_\_ as a Christian.**

Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (TLB)**

*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand-new person inside. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

**Galatians 3:27 (MSG)**

*Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe - Christ's life, the fulfilment of God's original promise.*

**3. It demonstrates my \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ's body, the church.**

No one baptises themselves; you would miss the point. It's a public witness of your faith, and an open statement that you believe and belong together with God's family.

***1 Corinthians 12:13 (MSG)***

*We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which [Christ] has the final say in everything. **(This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptised.)** Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body.*

**WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTISED?**

**1. To follow the example set by \_\_\_\_\_.**

***Mark 1:9 (NIV)***

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth...and was baptised by John in the Jordan.*

Why was Jesus baptised? To save himself? No, Jesus didn't need saving. He was perfect. It was a symbol of obedience, and it's an example of what we are to do because of what He has done.

2. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Christ commands that every Christian be baptised.

**Matthew 28:19–20 (GNT)**

*“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and **make them my disciples: baptise them** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and **teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

3. It shows that I really am a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 18:8 (NIV)**

*Many of the [people] who heard Paul **believed** and were **baptised**.*

Jesus died to pay for the price for our sins, and on the third day, he rose again from the dead. In the same manner, baptism is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, which signifies his death, burial, and resurrection.

So, baptism doesn't make you a Christian. It's just an **outward symbol of an inward commitment**.

**1 John 2:3 (NIV)**

*We know that we have come to know him if we **obey** his commands.*

How do you prove you're a Christian? You obey his commands. One of his first commands is, "Be baptised."

## HOW ARE WE BAPTISED?

There are some churches that sprinkle a little water on your forehead. Some pour a little water. Other churches put you all the way under the water.



*Immersion  
(dipping)*



*Aspersion  
(sprinkling)*



*Affusion  
(pouring)*

Why do we practice baptism by immersion at Collective?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was baptised in the same way.

We want to do it the way they did it in the Bible.

### **Matthew 3:16 (NIV)**

*As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water.*

He went down to the Jordan River. John the Baptist baptised him in the river. He set the example.

2. Every baptism in the \_\_\_\_\_ was by immersion

The word “baptism” in Greek means to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

βαπτίζω (G966)

**baptizō**

“Immerse” “Dip”

“Sink” “Plunge”

**John 3:23 (NIV)**

*Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because there was plenty of water.*

**Acts 8:36-38 (NIV)**

*As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The eunuch answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water** and Philip baptised him.*

*I would have those who are to be baptised to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.*

**Martin Luther**

*The word 'baptise' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.*

**John Calvin**

*We are buried with him, alluding to the ancient manner of baptizing by immersion.*

**John Wesley**

## **WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?**

Every person who has \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

### **Acts 2:41 (GNT)**

Many of them believed his message and were baptised.

### **Acts 8:13 (NLV)**

Simon believed in Christ and was baptised.

### **ACTS 8:12 (NIV)**

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news . . . and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women.

At Collective, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptise them. This usually happens at 12 years of age.



**DISCUSSION 1**

If you have been baptised, share your baptism story in 1-2 minutes.

If not, share one thing that is keeping you from taking that step.

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## FAQ

Here are some practical questions and answers that could help us wrap up this episode.

**1. My decision to be baptised may potentially cause unhappiness to the people around me. Should I wait till I resolve this?**

Baptism was instituted by the Lord as a command necessary for all to obey and to teach others to do so. There is no reason to delay baptism after believing in Jesus. It is important to remember that baptism is an act of obedience and a personal statement of faith. It is not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on the opinion of others.

**2. I have previously been baptised in another church that practices different modes of baptism other than immersion, is there a need for rebaptism?**

If your mode prior to this did not practice immersion and you choose to reaffirm your faith in God, yes go ahead. Baptism is primarily the work of God. Therefore, the mode becomes secondary.

**3. Can my family and I be baptised together?**

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptised at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

## HOLY COMMUNION: THE LORD'S SUPPER

Previously we learnt that Baptism is a one-time event we do when we join God's family. Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper, however, is an ongoing event we celebrate regularly with this family.

Jesus never asked his disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols called \_\_\_\_\_ as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are Baptism and Holy Communion.

### WHAT IS HOLY COMMUNION?

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

***1 Corinthians 11: 23 (NIV)***

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed,  
**took bread.***

At Collective, when we take communion, we don't turn it into a big ritual. We just observe the elements.

2. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 11: 24 (NIV)**

*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."*

The whole purpose of Holy Communion is for us to remember what Jesus did on the cross. When we eat and drink, we ground ourselves in the story of the cross and experience the very person of Jesus.

3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 11: 25 (NIV)**

*In the same way . . . he took the cup, saying, "**This cup** is the new covenant in my blood . . . drink it, in remembrance of me."*

When Jesus said, "This bread is my body and this cup is my blood," He didn't mean that literally. When Jesus said this, He hasn't died on the cross yet. He was talking about a symbol and not His actual blood. And when He says, "This is my body, which is for you." It's another symbol and not His actual body.

4. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 11: 26 (NIV)**

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**you proclaim the Lord's death** until he comes.*

Jesus reshapes the bread and the wine around the story of His death, His burial, and His resurrection. We look to the past and what He has done for us, look in the present on how He is here with us, and look to the future, where He invites us into.

**It is in Holy Communion that past, present and future all come together.** We give thanks because we are not getting what we deserve - death. And we celebrate and make a statement of faith, because we are getting what we do not deserve - life.

**WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

Only those who are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mark 14:22–26 (NIV)**

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God. When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

When Jesus offered the Holy Communion, He didn't offer it to the 5,000 where He fed the loaves and fishes. He only offered it to His disciples whom He knew were true believers. He didn't offer Holy Communion to the entire crowd.

At Collective, we partake of the Holy Communion as a family, on the 1st Sunday of the month. As we're taking communion, we invite those who are not believers to believe and give them the opportunity to recognize what communion means.

The Bible says:

**1 Corinthians 11:29 (BSB)**

*For anyone who eats and drinks **without recognizing the body** [of the Lord] eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

**HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR HOLY COMMUNION?**

**1 Corinthians 11:27–28 (NIV)**

*So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord **in an unworthy manner** will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

**Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat** of the bread and drink from the cup.

When we take Holy Communion here at this church, we always have a time of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ beforehand. We ask ourselves, “God, is there anything in my life that’s between me and you that I need to confess and get rid of before I take communion?”

When Jesus died, He took sin down with Him and when He resurrected, He brought God down to us. No matter what we are facing, we can always look forward to the future with confidence because we belong to Jesus.



**CONCLUSION**

Baptism and Holy Communion are not just about religious rituals or church traditions. They are symbols of Jesus Christ and His magnificent work of salvation in dying for our sins and rising for our everlasting life.

Both these ordinances are important and exciting steps on our faith journey. As we understand more about them through this lesson, we pray that it will give you meaning the next time you partake of the holy communion or as you get baptised.

We have come to the end of #ANewAdventure. We hope this has helped you to kickstart your Christian journey. In the next book #ABelieversLifestyle, we will learn about essential habits to grow in our journey with Christ.

**What Have I Learned Today**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the title. It is intended for students to write their reflections on what they have learned today.