

Elementary Children's Church

Lesson 32

The Three Ordinances

1. The Bible tells of three ordinances (appointments or instructions) of outward expression of faith and love that reveal a believer's heart's gratitude and submission to Jesus Christ. The first one we already spoke of weeks back, which is water baptism. (Review) This is the outward profession of Faith that after a person has accepted Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, he/she is instructed to be baptized, spiritually signifying they have been crucified/dead with Christ and yet have also been risen with Him. **Galatians 2:20**: "I am crucified with Christ never the less I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me." Thus the call for full immersion under the water (signifying death) and then being brought out as the resurrected eternal life. Always a good reminder that infant baptism profits us nothing, because a newly born infant is not of age to accept Christ, and has not yet accepted Christ to be crucified and raised together with Him.

2. Today we will discuss the second ordinance, which is communion. And how fitting that next week (first Sunday in July), Lord willing, we will be upstairs and celebrate, and take communion in remembrance of Jesus' death upon the cross. Communion signifies our remembering that He gave His body and freely shed His blood for all the sins of man (**Read Matthew 26:26-29 and I Corinthians 11:25**). By drinking and eating the juice and crackers, it signifies that we believe that He freely shed His blood and gave His body to be ravaged and beaten, so that we could be redeemed; free from all sin. That "once and for all" sacrifice (the shedding of His precious blood) saved me from sin and death. By grace are ye saved through faith. **Ephesians 2:28**.

3. Communion is only for those who have accepted Christ Jesus as Savior. When one takes of communion who has never accepted Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior they have taken unworthily. (Great opportunity to invite those to accept Jesus, if haven't)

(Please note: The 3rd ordinance, head covering, will be covered next class)