

# *The Church*

## **A. WHAT DOES THE WORD "CHURCH" MEAN?**

1. The word for "church" is composed of two Greek words meaning "to call out - from." It came to mean a "gathering" or an "assembly."
2. As used in the New Testament it came to mean
  - a. A particular local assembly, or church
    - 1)
    - 2)
    - 3)
  - b. The assembly of all believers in Christ regardless of geography. (Usually called the Universal Church)
    - 1)
    - 2)
    - 3)
3. Place the following references with a short explanatory phrase in the proper section (a. or b.) above. Matthew 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Thess. 1:1; Rev. 1:11; Acts 20:28

## **B. WHEN DID THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL START AND WHEN WILL IT BE COMPLETED?**

1. Looking at Scripture
  - a. Matthew 16:18
  - b. Acts 5:11
  - c. Acts 11:15
  - d. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2. An interesting question: Was Abraham in the church?
  - a. Best answer =

b. What if the church does begin with Abraham? (A branch of theology called "Covenant Theology" believes it did. What effect would this have on Israel?)

- 1) Then the promises to Israel are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church.
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ inherits all the promises made to the nation of Israel.
- 3) God has no future for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The re-emergence of Israel in the land of Palestine is an \_\_\_\_\_ and has no \_\_\_\_\_ in Biblical prophecy.
- 5) There is no future literal \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ upon the earth in which He reigns from \_\_\_\_\_.

3. How long will the Church exist?

- a.
- b. Ephesians 5:25-27
- c. Revelation 19:7
- d. Hebrews 12:22-23
- e. Revelation 21:14

### **C. SOME THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# "Can I Go to Church on TV?"

or

"What Is a Local Church?"

- A. The New Testament gives no real definition, but we can describe what a church ought to be like from the examples there.
- B. Ryrie's definition: "A local church is an assembly of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and who are organized to do God's will."  
(C. C. Ryrie, *A Survey of Bible Doctrine*, p. 141.)
  - 1. an assembly of **professing believers** in Christ:
    - a. 2 Cor. 1:1
    - b. Matt. 13;24-30; 36-43
  - 2. who have been **baptized**:
  - 3. who are **organized**:
    - a. Acts 14:21-23
    - b. Titus 1:5
  - 4. to **do God's will**: This would include
    - a.
    - b.
    - c. Acts 2:40-47
      - 1) E\_\_\_\_\_ (38-41, 47)
      - 2) B\_\_\_\_\_ (41)
      - 3) A\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ (42)
      - 4) F\_\_\_\_\_
        - a) C\_\_\_\_\_
        - b) P\_\_\_\_\_
      - 5) E\_\_\_\_\_ (43)

- 6) S\_\_\_\_\_ / G\_\_\_\_\_ (44,45)
- 7) U\_\_\_\_\_ (46)
- 8) A\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- 9) E\_\_\_\_\_
- 10) J\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) P\_\_\_\_\_ (47)

C. What is a church not, according to this definition?

- 1.
- 2. A b\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Para - \_\_\_\_\_ groups

D. What is unspecified according to this definition?

- 1. What kind of building if any
  - a. Acts 2:46
  - b. Acts 2:46
  - c. Acts 20:8-9
  - d. Romans 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Phm 1:2
- 2. How many meetings
  - a. Acts 2:46
  - b. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2

**Can I Go to Church on TV? Yes / No**

"The Church," J. T. Bartsch, 12-10-2006

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# "Our Risen Lord, the Head of His Church!"

## Introduction

There are several "figures of speech" in the New Testament used in relation to Christ and His Church. Each of these figures convey a beautiful *relationship* between Christ and us. They also imply important *responsibility* that we as believers have toward Christ. Watch these unfold in the Scripture passages below.

## A. The GOOD SHEPHERD and the SHEEP John 10:1-18; 27-29

1. **Relationship:** Jesus is the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14); Believers are His sheep. This imagery is taken from life, of course, but also reflects the Old Testament teaching that Jehovah was the Shepherd who would care tenderly for the flock (Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11).
  - a. (v. 3) The sheep
  - b. (v. 3) The shepherd
  - c. (vv .3, 4) The shepherd
  - d. (v. 4) The sheep
  - e. (v. 9) The shepherd provides
  - f. (v. 9) The shepherd provides
  - g. (v. 10) The Good Shepherd
  - h. (v. 11) The Good Shepherd
  - i. (v. 14) The Good Shepherd
    - 1)
    - 2)
  - j. (v. 16) The Good Shepherd
  - k. (vv. 17, 18) The Good Shepherd's self-sacrifice
    - 1)

2) **Application:**

- l. (v. 27) The Good Shepherd's sheep
- m. (v. 27) The Good Shepherd
- n. (v. 27) The Good Shepherd's sheep
- o. (vv. 28, 29) The Good Shepherd provides.

2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility of the sheep

- a. (v. 3) To
- b. (v. 4) To  
1 John 2:3-6
- c. (v. 9) To
- d. (v. 14)
- e. (v. 16) To
- f. (vv. 25, 26) To
- g. (v. 27) To
- h. (v. 27) To

# CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH: The VINE and the BRANCHES

John 15:1-17

## A. Relationship: Christ is the true vine; Christians are the branches.

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (15:1, 5).
2. Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ (15:5).
3. God the Father is \_\_\_\_\_ (15:1).
4. Central to this thought of vine and branches is \_\_\_\_\_.

Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, I, 355.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ ing Union - so we \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ ing Union - so we \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ ing Union - so we need not \_\_\_\_\_

5. Significance & Application: (John 15:5)

## B. The Responsibility:

### 1. Of the Branches to the Vine:

- a. To \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (15:4, 5, 7; 1 John 3:24).
- b. Accept God's \_\_\_\_\_ to bear more fruit (15:2).
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ (15:2,5, 8, 16).
- d. Ask for and receive answers to \_\_\_\_\_ (15:7, 16).
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' love (15:9).
- f. Keep Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (15:10).
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ as believers (15:12).



**2. Of the Vine**

- a. Provide \_\_\_\_\_ words (15:3).
- b. Abide in the \_\_\_\_\_ (15:4).
- c. Provide the \_\_\_\_\_ for the branches to bear fruit (15:4).
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ the branches (us) (15:9).
- e. Provide for our complete \_\_\_\_\_ ! (15:11).
- f. To \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us to bear fruit that \_\_\_\_\_ (15:16).

**3. Of the Vinedresser:**

- a. To give \_\_\_\_\_ to branches that aren't bearing fruit (15:2).
  - 1) To \_\_\_\_\_ branches that do not bear fruit (15:2).
  - 2) Or, to \_\_\_\_\_ the branches off the ground.
- b. To \_\_\_\_\_ fruit-bearing branches so they produce even more fruit (15:2).
  - 1) GOD WANTS \_\_\_\_\_ AS WELL AS \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) How does God prune?
    - a) By using His \_\_\_\_\_. (15:2,3)
    - b) By using other peoples' \_\_\_\_\_.
      - (1) 1 Thessalonians 5:14
      - (2) Romans 15:14
    - c) By using pastors, teachers, & spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
      - (1) 1 Corinthians 4:14.
      - (2) Colossians 1:28

d) By \_\_\_\_\_ us, using life's experiences, including (Hebrews 12:1-11)

(1) Hardship

(2) Suffering

3) Pruning hurts, but it is productive!

### C. The identity of the branches that get burned

1. They are Christians who lose their salvation. (But see John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 10:28-39; Rom. 8:1 etc.)

2. They are Christians who lose their rewards.

a. "The unfruitful believer is set aside, shelved. He or she is of no practical use to Christ or to His kingdom--just as an unfruitful branch is of no use to a fruit-producing vine." Charles Stanley, *Eternal Security*, p. 130.

b. "The 'burned' branches represent Christians who will lose rewards but not salvation at the judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:15)." Edwin A. Blum, John, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, II, 325.

3. They are not genuine Christians.

a. "Since all Christians bear fruit, it is clear that the fruitless branches in John 15 cannot refer to them.... Externally they [the branches] may be attached, but no life flows through them.... Some only appear to be a part of God's people....(Matt. 13:30, 38)....Since they have no living connection to Jesus Christ, they are cast out." John MacArthur, Jr., *Saved Without a Doubt: How to Be Sure of Your Salvation*." Victor Books, c. 1992, pp. 32, 33.

b. "The 'burned' branches refer to professing Christians who, like Judas, are not genuinely saved and therefore are judged. Like a dead branch, a person without Christ is spiritually dead and therefore will be punished in eternal fire (cf. Matt. 25:46)." Edwin A. Blum, *TBKC*, II, 325.

c. Another example is those disciples who left in John 6.

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# "ARE YOU A PRIEST?"

CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH: "The High P \_ \_ \_ \_ and the R \_ \_ \_ \_ Priesthood"

## A. RELATIONSHIP

1. Jesus Christ was designated by God to be a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:6, 10)
  - a. We know from Genesis 14:18 that Melchizedek was a \_\_\_\_\_, so He was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He was King of (Jeru)Salem: Salem means \_\_\_\_\_ (shalom), so he was King of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The name Melchizedek means "K \_ \_ \_ of R \_\_\_\_\_" (melech = king; zedek = righteousness), so He was a \_\_\_\_\_ king.
  - d. We know also from Genesis 14:18 that Melchizedek was "a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Most High God."
  - e. Melchizedek was a combination K \_\_\_\_\_ / P \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus, Our High Priest is a P \_ \_ \_ \_ who is to rule as K \_ \_ \_.
  - f. Jesus' job: (Hebrews 9:11-14)
2. When Jesus came to His people, He came as their \_\_\_\_\_. But since they did not receive Him (John 1:12), He had to serve as their \_\_\_\_\_ who offered Himself as their \_\_\_\_\_ so He could bring both Jews and Gentiles to God. The time is coming when He will return to be their \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 24-25) and the **King** of all **N** \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 19)!
3. Just as Jesus is a combination King / Priest, we are a **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **P** \_\_\_\_\_, serving as priests underneath Him offering \_\_\_\_\_ to God and \_\_\_\_\_ men to God.

## B. RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction: "In His love, God called Israel to be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:1-6), but the Jews failed God and their kingdom was taken from them (Matthew 21:43). Today, God's people (the church) are His kings and priests (1 Peter 2:1-10), exercising spiritual authority and serving God in this world." (Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*, II, 568)

1. A **Holy Priesthood**: Our task is to be holy 1 Peter 2:5
  - a. Set apart \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Set apart \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. A Holy **Priesthood**: We are to serve as priests 1 Pet. 2:5
  - a. A priest has the task of being a b\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. A priest's task is to help people deal with their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. We can help by -
  
3. A **Royal Priesthood**: We are members of a royal family because God his our \_\_\_\_\_, and Christ, our elder brother is the \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6
  - a. We are to assist the King now by
  - b. We are to assist the King in His coming Kingdom by
  
4. A Holy Priesthood whose task is to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ 1 Peter 2:9
  - a. **Sacrifice of P\_\_\_\_\_!**
    - 1) 1 Peter 2:9 Our job:
    - 2) Hebrews 13:15 "Let us continually offer up a s\_\_\_\_\_ of p\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. It is a useful sacrifice toward God to offer the **Sacrifice of D\_\_\_\_\_ G\_\_\_\_\_** toward God and others Hebrews 13:16.
    - 1) Any act of \_\_\_\_\_ toward another in Christ's name is a pleasing sacrifice to God.
    - 2) Remember, a sacrifice of doing good always costs us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. It pleases God if we **Sacrifice by S\_\_\_\_\_** with other believers.
    - 1) In Romans 15:26, 2 Cor. 8:4, 2 Cor. 9:13, and probably here in Heb. 13:16 - it meant sharing \_\_\_\_\_ with Christians who were needier than they.
    - 2) Lesson:

# The Head and the Body

## A. The Relationship

1. Christ's Position: (Eph. 1:22-23)
2. The Church's Role: (Eph. 1:22-23)
3. Who's in? (1 Cor. 12:13)
4. Whose decision?
  - a. 1 Cor. 12:11
  - b. 1 Cor. 12:18

## B. The Responsibility

1. Recognize -- (Eph. 1:22-23)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Head (Eph. 1:22)
3. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of each **member** of the body (1 Cor. 12:15).
4. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body -- (1 Cor. 12:17)
5. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body -- (1 Cor. 12:25)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ with different members -- (1 Cor. 12:26)
  - a.
  - b.

# "God's Plan for Church Leadership"

WHO ARE THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH?

## *Apostle*

- A. During Christ's ministry, apostles were men **sent forth** by Jesus to represent him.
1. They were chosen personally by him from among his larger group of disciples Luke 6:13
  2. He "sent them out" on preaching / healing assignments: Luke 9:1-2, 10
  3. Jesus planned that the Holy Spirit would uniquely remind the apostles what He had said. The Holy Spirit would also reveal new truths to them.
    - a. John 14:26
    - b. John 16:13
- B. An apostle is seen in the early church as someone who was **unique**. Apostles had special authority as Christ's personally-sent representatives which was not confined to one particular local church. Their authority existed over the church universal. Because of their unique authorization by Christ and unique qualifications, they are one-of-a-kind. When they died, apostleship was completed for the church, except that we still have their ministry in written form in the New Testament.
1. The apostles were unique because they had to have been with Christ
    - a. John 15:26
    - b. When the eleven apostles chose a successor to Judas they stipulated that he had to be someone who had been with Jesus from the beginning: Acts 1:21-22
  2. Apostles had a unique part in the founding of the early church Ephesians 2:20

3. Apostles had a unique spiritual gift (God-given ability to serve God) 1 Corinthians 12:28
4. Apostles had a unique ability to perform miracles as a sign that they were indeed apostles (2 Corinthians 12:12).

C. There is a transition made in the book of Acts.

1. From leaders being called "apostles" Acts 1:26
2. To apostles and elders sharing leadership
  - a. Acts 15:2
  - b. Acts 15:22-23
3. To elders alone being the leaders
  - a. Acts 21:18

D. In a very real sense, though we do not have the apostles with us today, we continue to benefit daily from their ministry.

1. We have the written words that they left behind--the exact ones that God's Spirit wanted us to have--the words of the New Testament. Jesus had authorized his apostles to write the New Testament for us!
2. Today we can rest assured that we have the exact words that Jesus wanted us to have. Christ's Spirit controlled Christ's apostles so that they wrote down exactly and precisely the things God wanted us to know and to use day after day!



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1. They were ch\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 6:13
2. He "sent them out" on a\_\_\_\_\_ : Luke 9:1-2, 10
3. The Holy Spirit would r\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles.
  - a. John 14:26
  - b. John 16:13

B. An apostle is seen in the early church as someone who was u\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Because they had to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. John 15:26
  - b. Acts 1:21-22
2. Because they helped \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 2:20
3. Because they had a \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 12:28
4. Because they had ability to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 12:12).

C. There is a t\_\_\_\_\_ made in the book of Acts.

1. From leaders being called \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 1:26
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sharing leadership
  - a. Acts 15:2
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3. To \_\_\_\_\_ alone being the leaders Acts 21:18

D. In a very real sense, though we do not have the apostles with us today, we continue to b\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_ from their ministry.

1. We have the \_\_\_\_\_ that they left behind--
2. We have the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ wants us to have!



only \_\_\_ times, 4 of those designating church leaders.

3. **Pastor** (Shepherd) This title (as a noun) literally means a \_\_\_\_\_ of a flock of sheep.

a. Frequency: The noun "*poimeenā* ("shepherd") is used \_\_\_ times. Only once does it refer to a church leader (Eph. 4:11, where it is translated "pastors"). The verb is used \_\_\_ times. \_\_ times it refers to church leaders; \_\_ times to Christ.

b. Luke 2:8 Significance:

c. Ephesians 4:11 Significance:

1) Shows that shepherds in a church have a primary responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Shows that shepherding / teaching is a \_\_\_\_\_ given by Christ to whomever He chooses.

d. 1 Peter 5:1-4 Significance:

1) Shows that elders are to \_\_\_\_\_ the flock.

2) Shows that though Peter was an apostle, he also saw his job as being an \_\_\_\_\_ who had the responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ the flock.

3) Shows that the responsibility of shepherding the flock was passed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Shows that elders and overseers are the same office, having the responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ (or to pastor) the flock.

4. APPLICATION:

a. We must stop thinking that only "professionals" (paid pastors) are to shepherd the flock. There are \_\_\_\_\_ whose job also is to shepherd.

b. Hebrews 13:17

c. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

d. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

# THE JOB OF A CHURCH LEADER

## A. WHAT WAS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF A PASTOR / ELDER / OVERSEER?

Central Passage: Acts 20:28 = "To \_\_\_\_\_ the Flock!"

What is involved in shepherding?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep Acts 20:28-32

a.

b.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep John 21:15-17

a.

b.

c.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep Revelation 7:13-17

## B. WHAT APPLICATION IS THERE TO EACH OF US?

1. We all have other \_\_\_\_\_ to look out for!

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

2. We have responsibilities to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_!

# "Are There Any Servants in the Church?"

Introduction:

- a. Philippians 1:1
- b. 1 Timothy 3:8
- c. 1 Timothy 3:12
- d. Where did these people come from?

## Lessons to learn from Acts 6:1-7

### 1. **The Need:** The Goldbergs and the Cohens

Lesson:

### 2. **The Problem** Acts 6: 1. And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Mrs. Archippus and Mrs. Ampliatus

Lesson: If a problem threatens to

- 1) disrupt the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church and
- 2) is beyond the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ministry-starters to solve, then official church leadership must step in and administer the problem area.

### 3. **Problem Solvers?** Acts 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Lesson:

### 4. **Delegation?** Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

a. Lesson:

b. In solving this problem it was important to do several things:

- 1) *Decentralize*
- 2) *Set standards*

- 3) *Allow the church a say*
- 4) *Retain control*
- 5) *Fully delegate*

c. Should women apply?

**5. Keep a Balance** Act 6: 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Lesson:

**6. Results:** Acts 6:5-7

a. The people of the church were \_\_\_\_\_with a wise decision.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

b. The Apostles remained \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ as leaders.

6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid [their] hands on them.

c. The Leaders (Apostles) were able to stick with their God-given \_\_\_\_\_ of teaching and praying, so more people got \_\_\_\_\_ and the church \_\_\_\_\_!

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**7. Concluding Lessons:**

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

# *What Are The Church's Symbols?*

## *--The Lord's Supper--*

### *A. Should we call it an ordinance or a sacrament?*

1. "A sacrament is something presented to the senses, which has the power, by divine institution, not only of signifying, but also of efficiently conveying grace." (Council of Trent (1546))
2. An ordinance is "an outward rite prescribed by Christ to be performed by His church." (Ryrie)

### *B. What do locations mean?*

1. In a **Catholic** church, where is: Why?
  - a. The pulpit?
  - b. The baptismal font?
  - c. The altar?
2. In a **Lutheran** church, where is: Why?
  - a. The pulpit?
  - b. The baptismal font?
  - c. The altar?
3. In a **Baptist** church, where is: Why?
  - a. The pulpit?
  - b. The baptistery?
  - c. The communion table?

### *C. What happens at the communion table (or "altar")?*

1. In a **Roman Catholic** church?
  - a. The bread and wine \_\_\_\_\_ the actual body and blood of Christ, though they obviously do not change their appearance. This is called " \_ \_ \_ \_ substantiation."
  - b. What effect does this have?



- c. Why can this not be true?
- 1) Hebrews 9:12
  - 2) Hebrews 10: 10
2. In a **Lutheran** church? [Paragraphs a through d are taken verbatim from Luther's Small Catechism, pp. 28-29.]

- a. "What is the Sacrament of the Altar?"

"It is the **true body and blood** of our Lord Jesus Christ **under** the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink."

[Author's note: this view is called "consubstantiation." The second question of this section in the catechism is omitted here.]

- b. "What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?"

"These words, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' show us that **in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us** through these **words**. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation."

- c. "How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things

"Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: 'forgiveness of sins.'"

- d. "Who receives this sacrament worthily?"

"...But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has **faith in these words**: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'

But anyone who does **not believe these words or doubts them** is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe."

- e. Why can this not be true?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of speech:
- 2) This is supported by the words of Jesus about the Last Supper, "This do in \_\_\_\_\_ of me" (Luke 22:19).

- 3) Jesus never said that believing words about communion would give us forgiveness of sins. He said that His \_\_\_\_\_, (not the wine and the bread) was given for forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:27-28 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my **blood** of the new testament, **which** is shed for many for the remission of sins.

- 4) We are to have faith in Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_, not in words about the communion elements: Romans 3:24-25

3. In a **Baptist** church?

- a. We believe that the bread and the cup are strictly a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). The elements are unchanged; Christ is present in the service but not in the elements at all.
- b. The purposes of The Lord's Supper:
  - 1) A \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1 Cor. 11:24-25)
  - 2) It is a way to announce the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:26)
  - 3) It helps Christians anticipate the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 11:26)
  - 4) It reminds us of the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

# "WHY JESUS ASKS US TO BE BAPTIZED"

## A. Command of Baptism (Why should we be baptized?)

Matthew 28:18-20

## B. Examples of Baptism (When should we be baptized?)

1. Acts 2:41
2. Acts 8:12-13
3. Acts 8:36, 38
4. Acts 18:7-8

## C. Meaning/Purpose of Baptism (What does baptism mean?)

1. It is a necessary, outward way of **identifying oneself with** \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Mark 1:8
  - b. **Public** \_\_\_\_\_ **that you are a Christian**
    - 1) Like a \_\_\_\_\_ for basketball, football, baseball player
    - 2) A statement you *have been saved*, are already a child of God. Not a way to get saved.
      - a) Titus 3:5
      - b) Ephesians 2:8-10
2. **Sign of identification with Christ** in His \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:3-4
3. A **sign** that the believer has been **placed** by God's Spirit **into the** \_\_\_\_\_ **of Christ**  
1 Corinthians 12:13
4. It provides the believer with a **clear** \_\_\_\_\_ before God

1 Peter 3:21