

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 9

### ORDINANCES ARE SYMBOLS OF HOLINESS

*Scripture Texts: Romans 6:1-8; John 6:53-56; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

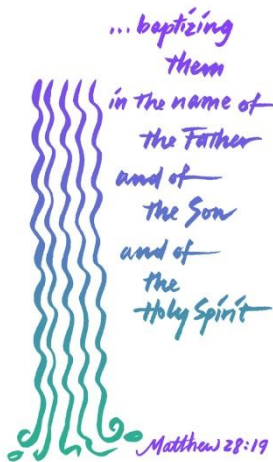
What does dead with Christ really mean? One can work hard in his own strength to be holy and yet fail. Is one holy who does not smoke, drink, swear, gamble, or carouse, who dresses plainly, denies himself pleasures and comforts, and stays away from questionable places? No! It takes a separation that one cannot make in his own strength alone. It is possible to separate from outward acts but not the love of them. To do it in one's own strength, not God's, or from wrong motives is to but drive one farther from holiness. We need to die out to sin and self, to be dead and buried with Christ, and arise to live with Him. This is newness of life. All three ordinances show forth holiness. Today we look into what the ordinances picture about the holy life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.—Romans 6:4*

#### Two Baptisms

**Romans 6:1-4** Shall we continue in sin, that grace ...? That God's forgiveness may work more to show His love? No! One who is born of God is **dead to sin**, separated from it. Thus the grace of God shows more. **Baptized into Jesus Christ...into his death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death. Therefore** – or because of the first baptism, baptism into Jesus Christ, a spiritual work done when one is born again. It puts one into the body of Christ. A child of God is a member **of his flesh, and of his bones.** (Ephesians 5:30). **We also should walk in newness of life** – a holy life.

This second baptism is a baptism of water. It is our testimony to all of our death, burial, and resurrection. It is a symbol of real and spiritual baptism that has taken place. It means that this has (1) accepted Christ's death for himself, (2) died to sin, (3) been put into the body of Christ (4) believes and accepts His resurrection, and (5) so not walks in **newness of life**. This new life is one of holiness.



#### Risen With Christ

**Romans 6:5-8** To live with Christ either here or in Heaven, we must first die with Him. This is death to sin and the self life (Matthew 10:38-39). Then resurrection follows automatically. If **we be dead with Christ...we shall also live with Him** – in this world and in the next. Baptism is **the likeness** of this. Going under the water symbolizes death and burial. Rising from the water symbolizes resurrection. The reality, which is the symbol, pictures is that **our old man is crucified** (Ephesians 4:22-24), the **body of sin is destroyed**, and **henceforth we will not serve sin**, for we are **freed from sin**. This is holiness.

#### Jesus the Bread of Life

**John 6:53-56** Jesus claimed to be the **bread of life** (John 6:48). His hearers did not understand. They looked at literal, material things. Jesus spoke of spiritual truths in symbolic terms. **He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me...hath eternal life.** His flesh and blood represent Himself. **1 John 5:12** carries this same thought.

How can we eat Him? In **verse 63** He says, **It is the spirit that quickeneth** (makes alive); **the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that**



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**I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.** So by obeying His Words, we partake of Him. One cannot be saved by the act of baptism. Water cannot wash away sin (**Jeremiah 2:22**). Partaking of the Lord's Supper does not give life or make one holy. In **1 Corinthians 11:28-29** we read, **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body** – not understanding what it is to be in Christ, thus treating it as not sacred. A person must first be in Christ, dead and risen with Him before he is fit for water baptism. One must first be a partaker of Christ before he is fit to partake of the Lord's Supper. A serious matter indeed!



## Foot Washing

The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper show forth our love to God. The ordinance of Feet Washing shows forth our love to our brothers and sisters. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will." Force is not needed in a work of love.

### In Sincerity and Truth

**1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Purge out ... the old leaven.** Leaven here signifies sin. The Feast of the Passover was eaten with unleavened bread (**Exodus 13:3-7**). Jesus is the antitype of the Passover lamb (**Exodus 12**). As the lamb died to save from physical death, so Christ died to save from spiritual death. As they ate the Passover with unleavened bread, so we must **keep the feast** (partake of the Lord's Supper) free from **the leaven of malice and wickedness**. It must be in **sincerity and truth**. The Israelites ate the lamb. We are to eat Christ. They took the lamb into physical bodies. We take Christ into our spiritual lives. This is done only when there is a complete separation from the devil. **Ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils (1 Corinthians 10:21).**

The ordinances should never be offered to all indiscriminately, without requirements being explained. Children, the unsaved, and those ignorant of the meaning should be able to decide for themselves after learning what God requires. All must know the harm it will do to themselves to lightly value these ordinances.

Christ takes us into Himself to save us, keep us, and commune with us. He comes to work and think and speak through us, to be holiness in us. This is what the ordinances stand for. They should be handled always with much respect and reverence. Christ must have a people like Himself. He makes these new creatures from sinners and rejoices in receiving them.

### JUSTATHOUGHT

**A great man is great until he finds it out.**

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