



Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Lord's Supper/Communion.

The Lord's Supper/Communion., on: 2014/7/19 10:42

As we have been discussing, the RCC teaches Transubstantiation or the real presence of Christ. The Protestant Church teaches that it is a symbol. The RCC does not accept that a symbol would be put in the place of another symbol (Jewish ceremony as a shadow of what Christ would sacrifice) and that there is more to it than symbol.

I think that both views are unbalanced.

What Christ gave was His blood and body so that we could feed on Him *with faith*. He is the Bread of Heaven, and the true Vine and it is now spiritually received.

The Lord's Prayer says 'Give us this day our DAILY bread' denoting that it is to be life sustaining and therefore constant.

Before we reach a stage where we are in spiritual union with Him and able to feed on Him in this way, and show forth His life rather than His death, I don't think it is wrong to carry on with the ceremony, as did the disciples at first, so long as we are seeking the Marriage Feast and this is I believe what the scripture is meaning when it says we are not to partake 'unworthily'.

This was the scene in the Corinth Church.

So, I have started this thread to thrash it out. Begin....

Re: The Lord's Supper/Communion. - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 11:03

Quote:
-----The Protestant Church teaches that it is a symbol.

Not true. There are many Protestant churches that see it as more than a symbol, same with baptism.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 11:05

And which ones?

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 11:10

For starters, the Calvary Chapel churches believe and teach the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper, with real physical and spiritual healing available.

Re: , on: 2014/7/19 11:12

But that just means that they have adopted RCC dogma doesn't it?

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/7/19 11:28

No, it just means they believe that Christ is present in a special way during Communion, not in His literal body and blood which the RCC says is offered up as a sacrifice every mass. The RCC view on it is a form of mystical cannibalism and clear blasphemy against our Lord's once for all sacrifice for sins.

Re: Communion - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/7/19 13:27

Three Bible incidents come to mind for me.

One is the words Jesus spoke at the Passover meal when He took the cup and said, "This is My blood, all of you drink of it." He used wine, though He had His own real blood there if He had chosen to cut himself and used physical blood. He did not do that, He let the wine be a symbol of the blood. He told the disciples to take Him inside of themselves.

Then there was the time during His ministry when He shouted to the crowd, "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood , you have no part of Me!" Which of course freaked out a large part of the crowd, rattling the 12 as well. It was a challenge again, "Don't just know Me, take Me inside,"

Lastly was the incident following His resurrection with Cleopas and another disciple in Emmaus. The men had been prevented from recognizing Him as He spoke on the road, the Holy Spirit restraining their minds as they were filled with information. But as they attended the evening meal, when Jesus broke the bread in front of them the Holy Spirit released them to recognize Him!

Discussions on the Communion meal can get complicated and even argumentative, but in my opinion it is about two things- recognizing in my inner man who He really is, and taking that reality inside as I walk a journey to becoming just like Him for eternity. Communion elements are a physical symbol of a spiritual reality.

That's how I see it. I would be interested in what others believe about it.

David Jeremiah, pastor of a local church here in San Diego, always teaches that it is just a remembrance of Jesus work in salvation. It would irritate me that someone should go about their daily life and then once a month remember that Jesus died for their sins.

I am mindful of that moment by moment, I just think the Communion meal has to be deeper, more powerful, more compelling than just a religious exercise in remembering.

The phrase, "You are what you eat" seems to have a place here.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/19 13:52

Quote:
-----Communion

The word itself "Communion" speaks of "union". There is a sense of "intimate fellowship" that we can feel with our Lord as we remember His death and resurrection. I have felt the Lord close at times during taking the Lord's Supper. There is a mystery to the Lord's Supper that is spiritual that perhaps we can be happy not to know how to explain it but be able to partake of it and feel its blessing.

As with baptism it is not just nothing, countless evangelicals share how it is a moving experiencing and there is something spiritual that happens during the time. I personally can attest to that also.

Revelation 3:20 New International Version (NIV)

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/19 14:22

Oracico is correct the RCC teaches that the wafer, becomes JESUS actual flesh, and that the wine becomes HIS actual blood. The priest prays, while the congregation is kneeling. The priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer and then holds the consecrated host up for all to see. At this point the wafer has become his actual body, and the wine becomes HIS actual blood...at least that is what any truly devout Catholic will tell you and believe. One other thing that should be made clear, Catholics are taught that there are requirements that must be met in order to take communion. They are taught that in order to truly be acceptable to take communion, one must first go to confession by going to the priest, confess, do penance, (pray prayers with the rosary) then you must believe that the wine and wafer become his flesh and blood, you must fast for no less than one hour before and then finally you will be in the right place and worthy to take communion. It is a very big deal to Catholics, the more frequently you take communion the closer you are to JESUS because you have been joined with HIM by the eating of his flesh. It is false teaching, it is not BIBLICAL and there is no support for such notions. They are pagan in their concept and no true believing Christian would take part in such an exercise.

God bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/19 14:34

The earliest known use of the term "transubstantiation" to describe the change from bread and wine to body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist was by Hildebert de Lavardin, Archbishop of Tours, in the 11th century. By the end of the 12th century the term was in widespread use. The Fourth Council of the Lateran, which convened beginning November 11, 1215, spoke of the bread and wine as "transubstantiated" into the body and blood of Christ: "His body and blood are truly contained in the sacrament of the altar under the forms of bread and wine, the bread and wine having been transubstantiated, by God's power, into his body and blood".

The Council of Trent in its 13th session ending October 11, 1551, defined transubstantiation as "that wonderful and singular conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the Body, and of the whole substance of the wine into the Blood - the species only of the bread and wine remaining - which conversion indeed the Catholic Church most aptly calls Transubstantiation".

from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transubstantiation>

So we see that in the 11th century this was mentioned and more or less formed. Before that there was in some ways a more healthy way of the Lord's Supper being practiced.

Again modern RCC is different than early church or a forming RCC church.

I personally do see Transubstantiation as an extreme wrong emphasis and it being heretical and wrong. But it is an extreme of something that is true that there is a mystery and blessing in the Holy Communion.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/7/19 14:43

So I thought this worth sharing here:

It was close to their hearts to share in the Feast that Jesus spoke of, declaring visibly, until He returns. It was a declaration of their "one-ness" 1Cor. 10, 11 and discerning of the Body of Christ as ONE. And, in fact, if they WERE NOT ONE - your meetings do more harm than good, and it's not the Lord's Table AT ALL! The ritual obviously MEANS NOTHING, if their lives don't reflect the REALITY of the ENTIRE CHURCH AS ONE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT, IN THE COMMON AFFAIRS OF LIFE! Contending as ONE MAN for the Faith (Phil. 1:27). Joined and knit together by every supporting ligament (Eph. 4:16). We being many are ONE! IF the LIFE of the people doesn't reflect this Truth, God says that they "eat and drink condemnation upon themselves" and it's not even the Lord's Supper anyway! And they shouldn't bother to meet at all, since God is judging them for it. Wow.

So, it's important to God. But, it's not magic bread. It is a declaration to heaven and hell and earth of a UNION o

f LIFE, eating and drinking with Him anew in His Kingdom. AND, it must reflect the reality of our LIVING SITUATIONS DAILY AMONGST HIS PEOPLE, or it is a bogus ritual that God strikes some sick and others dead over (1Cor. 11). Being **DEVOTED** to doing it, and LIVING the Reality of it, MUST go hand in hand. And yes, God is very much involved in SUCH a **Communion** as this.....

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/7/19 15:28

Very good point sister, communion and the life of Jesus Christ Himself is much more important than following any tradition that He has for us, though they are important also.

If we are not in Christ then we are not His.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/19 17:23

We rarely participate in communion at my church--once a quarter at most. So I look forward to it.

It is clear since people were getting sick and dying in the Corinthian church over this that it is more than just a symbol. I don't agree with transubstantiation for sure; however anytime we reflect on the atonement we should be serious about it, especially when we are being obedient to The Lord and what we are commanded to do.

Re: - posted by ManOfGod (), on: 2014/7/20 23:23

I have wanted to comment on this. But I have sat back and watched to see what everyone had to say.

Communion is a beautiful, powerful thing. Jesus instituted communion at the last supper (Luke 22:19-20.) The Apostles and disciples did it (acts 2:42.) The apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian church how to go about taking Communion (I Corinthians 11:23-32).

In verse 23 Paul says that which I have received from the Lord have I delivered unto you. So we see here that Paul was teaching the church what the Lord had taught him. The Bible says in 1 corinthians 14 that if any man think himself to be a Prophet or spiritual, let Him acknowledge that the things I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

So Communion isn't a custom, It is a commandment from God, and seeing how God instructed it and Jesus and the Apostles did it, we must do it also.

How often should we take communion? Jesus said do this as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me. So that means He wanted them to do it more than once and He wants us to do it more than once. You can do it any time you remember Christ and what He has done for you, so long as it is out of a pure, righteous, and sincere heart.

There is power in communion. Because not every one is allowed to partake of it. Here in is where the power lies:

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 KJV

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 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.

In order to take communion, you must be PURE. You must be holy, and must be living right. You must examine yourself before taking, and if you have sinned you must repent in order to be in condition for communion. When you repent of your sins, And you have examined yourself and are found worthy then you are in perfect condition to ask God for anything, and to claim the promises of God.

Many churches have done away with Communion because it makes many people uncomfortable because they have to face the fact that they have sin in their life. But when a person examines their life and rids themselves of anything that would hinder their relationship with God, when they get in condition, and when they remember what the Lord has Done for them, they can pray and God Will answer!

This is the power of communion, and that is why so many were sickly and dying in the Corinthian church, like they are today, because they were taking it without first examining their lives and repenting and asking God to forgive them.

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I urge you, plead with you, brethren and sisters, take God at His Word. If you have a sickness in your body, if you need God to move in your life, or just want to get closer to Him, take Communion!!!

Examine, repent and remember and watch God do great things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!!!

Love you all, God bless.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/21 14:37

Quote:

I urge you, plead with you, brethren and sisters, take God at His Word. If you have a sickness in your body, if you need God to move in your life, or just want to get closer to Him, take Communion!!!

Brother,

Can you expound on this statement a little more. I do not understand how these symptoms--sickness in the body and needing God to move in my life--are cured or nullified or generally affected by taking communion as per the scriptures.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/7/21 15:38

I have a question to add to the one given:

How should a believer respond when there are communicants with rebellion in their lives?

Re: - posted by Solomon101, on: 2014/7/21 21:17

There are 4 primary views on the communion/eucharist. However, rather than me lay them out and thrash them around I would suggest another route.

There was a marvelous resource written a few years back called, "UNDERSTANDING FOUR VIEWS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER".

Well respected and spoken followers of all four main views (Baptist, Reformed, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic) present their positions which are then counterpointed by the other three. There truly is a distinct difference in all four. It is a challenging read to put them all in the same ring at the same time and evaluate them.

It was very well done with each position making their case while the other three then had opportunity to respond and question it. All done in a thorough, respectful, and academic manner. An enjoyable read that removes much of the emotion and lets the various view be presented side by side letting the reader make his mind according to the truths he sees and his conscience.

Here is a link to the book if you wish to give it a look. Right now it is about \$12.00 on CBD.

<http://www.christianbook.com/understanding-four-views-the-lords-supper/john-armstrong/9780310262688/pd/262688>

Well worth the investment if a person is actually interested in the topic and not just fighting or nit picking.

Re: - posted by Man0fG0d (), on: 2014/7/21 21:24

Good evening, I apologize for not getting back to y'all sooner. I got off work a little later than expected, and have just now got a chance to get on SI.

Brother Havoc,

The Bible says The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their Prayers. We see from this Scripture that God hears the Prayer of a righteous person. Righteous meaning to be in right standing with God. As believers we live by God's Word, if we're not sober and vigilant though, we Will allow things to hinder our walk with God. Co

Communion is like stepping off the boat to go onto the water. It's taking the next step. It's more than just asking for forgiveness, but you search your heart and mind and ask God to reveal to you any area of your life that you are lacking in, and repent of your sin. After you repent, you take communion which honors God because you are remembering everything that He did by Sending His Son, and by remembering what Christ did for us on the cross.

The Bible says in Hebrews 4:16 KJV

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Now that you have been cleansed, You can come to the Throne boldly and Ask God what ye would because you know you have made things right between you and the Lord. There is nothing hindering your relationship with Him, you have done what is commanded of you and you can ask in Faith trusting in Him to answer.

Sis Ginny:

The Bible says In Phil 2:12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. As hard as it is, and as heartbreaking as it can be, You must make your choice, and they must make theirs. That's why the Scripture says examine yourself see if ye be in the faith. If you're in church you must come under the authority of the pastor because God is not the author of Confusion. After the Pastor teaches on Communion it is left up to the person to make the choice.

One scripture I really struggle with is 1 Corinthians 14:38 KJV

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

As a Preacher of the gospel, I Preach against sin and of the consequences of committing sin. I see people that hear the Word of God Preached and still walk out the door living the same filthy life style. I want to shake them, And turn them from their sin but ultimately, they must make their own choice. If they know better and still yet take it anyway they Will live with that. All we can do is pray for them, and work out our salvation for salvation.

James 4:17- therefore to Him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to Him it is sin.

Thank you for the questions. Again I'm sorry I am just now getting to answer. Hope y'all are doing well. God bless.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/22 7:28

One of the deepest spiritual experiences I have had was when a dear brother arranged for a surprise, or spontaneous communion service for a small number of us who prayed on Saturday mornings. He had little setting arranged around the table and as we entered the room he was at the door greeting us and gave us each a hug and said "there is a place prepared for you." It is hard to describe how impactful that simple act was. But I do know why- it is because Jesus was speaking through him.

For me, the spontaneity of it was what made it special because it did not seem so contrived and it was very simple. But the Lord was present- not in the elements but there with us. My church as a body take communion about once a quarter which to me is not enough, but I think groups of believers should take communion together apart from the church service. I believe it is more meaningful and a deeper experience that way. Also, that is the way Jesus began it-- with a small group of close friends.

I was listening to an Art Katz sermon a while back and he said he had a little communion "kit" and he took communion by himself every morning as part of his devotional time.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/22 12:19

Quote:
-----Communion Is like stepping off the boat to go onto the water. It's taking the next step. It's more than just asking for forgiveness, but you search your heart and mind and ask God to reveal to you any area of your life that you are lacking in, and repent of your sin. After you repent, you take communion which honors God because you are remembering everything that He did by Sending His Son, and by remembering what Christ did for us on the cross.

I love communion. I do, and I eagerly look forward to it whenever we have it.

I want us to review the text in 1 corinthians 11 where this concept is found.

Quote:
-----Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. There must, indeed, be factions among you, so that those who are approved may be recognized among you. Therefore, when you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's Supper. For at the meal, each one eats his own supper ahead of others. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! Don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on the church of God and embarrass those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you for this!

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. So a man should examine himself; in this way he should eat the bread and drink from the cup. For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. This is why many are sick and ill among you, and many have fallen asleep. If we were properly evaluating ourselves, we would not be judged, but when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, so that we may not be condemned with the world.

Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you gather together you will not come under judgment. And I will give instructions about the other matters whenever I come.

ManOfGod,

I am going to be direct, but don't think I am condescending.

What I am hearing is this: When we sin, we should ask for forgiveness, but when we really want God to do something for us, or we need a work in our life, or when we really need some deep cleansing, we should take communion.

It doesn't seem to me that this is the pattern that we have for us in the Scriptures. Now, clearly, I could be misunderstanding what is being said or I could just not be familiar with this concept as shown in the Scriptures. Both are pretty likely, I think.

I think the problem was that the Corinthians were very nonchalant and were taking advantage of one another and putting to shame those who had nothing. In fact, it appears that the whole concept of the Lord's Supper was totally off-kilter. They were eating and drinking and carousing about and definitely not discerning the body and blood of the Lord, nor were they remembering what He did for them. Yet they still called it the "Lord's Supper." It was anything but.

Because of that, the Lord had begun to judge them and made some sick and killed others.

In view of all of this, Paul told them to examine themselves and explained how to correctly partake of the Lord's Supper.

Considering this, Paul was not telling them, "your health is bad and you are in sin, therefore take the Lord's supper in order to prompt the cleansing that you need." He was saying the opposite, "You are sick because you are sinning in taking the Lord's Supper and eating and drinking guilt on yourselves. Examine yourselves so that you are able to take it."

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Lord's Supper/Communion.

The Lord's Supper does nothing to cleanse me, just as baptism does not cleanse me. I must be clean prior to both of those things.

Quote:

I was listening to an Art Katz sermon a while back and he said he had a little communion "kit" and he took communion by himself every morning as part of his devotional time.

Is there a pattern in the NT that shows that we should do that? I always thought that communion was a communal ordinance and not a by-yourself ordinance.

Re: - posted by ManOfG0d (), on: 2014/7/22 17:06

Evening to you brother, are you having a good day?

You said:

The Lord's Supper does nothing to cleanse me, just as baptism does not cleanse me. I must be clean prior to both of those things.

Indeed, an unsaved man that gets baptized will go down a dry sinner and come up a wet one haha. You must be clean to take communion, that is why the Scripture says Examine yourself. That's not the point I was trying to make, but rather that after you have taken communion you know where you stand with God. You have examined your self, and repented of any sin. So you know that you are pure, you know that you have been cleansed, and you have honored the Father by Remembering Christ.

So that gives you boldness to ask God for anything you need, because you know that there is nothing in you unclean that would hinder your Prayers and that you are in perfect condition to receive.

As for the other Question. I haven't read any Scripture that says we should only take communion in church. Jesus did say this do in remembrance of me. I take communion often at home. Our church takes it every month, but if I'm going to be Preaching then I take communion because it causes me to examine myself.

Saying all that, let Me say it was good to hear from you. I've got to cut it short. Till I hear from you again, God bless.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/22 17:58

ManOfG0d,

I am having a fairly good day. Thanks for asking.

Your response makes sense to me. You're saying that if one partakes of communion correctly, then he would have already properly examined himself and not eating/drank condemnation to himself and repented of sin, etc. I can understand that.

I have never even considered the concept of taking communion at my house by myself. I am not sure if that is biblical, and I don't mean that against what you're saying, but it is just a new concept to me.

So, the question that I have is this: Should I teach other believers to take communion by themselves?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/22 21:39

I don't think I would encourage people to take communion by themselves. However I do not think it is "wrong" to do so. The idea is to reflect and remember what Christ did and if I feel I need to do that and communion would help then I would do it.

I personally have not (yet) taken communion by myself.

Re: communion alone - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/7/22 23:33

There are so many individual ideas about the meaning of the Communion elements, but if you believe they symbolize taking in more of Christ to become more conformed to Him, you would have no reservations of taking it alone.

It is also very moving to take communion with just one other believer, a little like an exercise in personal accountability.

Communion is an under-utilized blessing for most believers, they are usually constrained by the practice in their churches, and often believe it must be served by state registered clergy people.

Groan...

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2014/7/23 3:26

Quote: Havok wrote, ""The Lord's Supper does nothing to cleanse me, just as baptism does not cleanse me. I must be clean prior to both of those things.""

How is this cleanliness accomplished for the believer?

In Christ: Phillip

Re: , on: 2014/7/23 3:42

Quote:
-----Communion is an under-utilized blessing for most believers, they are usually constrained by the practice in their churches, and often believe it must be served by state registered clergy people.

I wonder what others think about the early Quakers, who were just about the best example of a group of believers we have ever seen bar the early church.

They loved each other so much that persecution prison sentences for the weaker members were served by the stronger ones. They had such strong ethics of honesty especially in business, that they later became extremely successful, people having learnt to trust them. They were the first Christians to send out missionaries. The early books by them are an example of how spiritual they were.

They did not take partake in communion or practise water baptism (or have paid ministers or a pulpit)

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/23 8:28

Simple krautfrau.

The Friends were disobedient to the Lords commands.

One of the main reasons I left a Friends church I used to attend.

Just because they are awesome in some areas (like Catholics) does not mean they are correct in others.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/23 9:15

Philip,

Ezekiel 36:24-27

"For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances."

Titus 2:14

"He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, eager to do good works."

Hebrews 10:22

"...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water."

So there is a sense in which we are clean because of the work of Jesus Christ. My soul is clean. I stand pure before the sight of God because I have been made righteous, having believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

There is also cleansing in regards to sanctification:

2 Corinthians 7:1

"Therefore, dear friends, since we have such promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, completing our sanctification in the fear of God."

James 4:8

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double-minded people!"

There is also a sense in which we are pursuing holiness and sanctification and are constantly inventorying our lives in order to bring ourselves more and more into submission to Jesus Christ, cleansing ourselves. Although we all know that a part from Him, we can do nothing. So even that is not solely our prerogative.

Re: , on: 2014/7/23 9:45

Quote:

-----The Friends were disobedient to the Lords commands.

One of the main reasons I left a Friends church I used to attend.

TMK

The early Friends were absolutely not the same as the later ones. I think they started to go downhill before the death of Fox. Entire Sanctification which the early ones had, was increasingly seen as not important.

Re: , on: 2014/7/23 10:08

cancelled duplicate post.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/23 16:05

I understand KF; however if even the earliest Friends did not practice baptism or holy communion they were disobeying the commands of The Lord.

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/23 16:39

Quote:

There are so many individual ideas about the meaning of the Communion elements, but if you believe they symbolize taking in more of Christ to become more conformed to Him, you would have no reservations of taking it alone.

Does this concept appear in Scripture? I am not sure where to find the idea that taking communion = "taking in more of Christ". I also don't think that it symbolizes that either, but I could be wrong. I have not studied much on it. Scriptures would be great! Thanks!

Re: Foundation for communion thought - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/7/23 17:25

Havok,

Two things come to mind regarding the scriptural basis for "eating the elements" of communion.

The first is Jesus' cry to His disciples and the crowd, "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you have no part of me!"

We can hopefully agree that He was not inviting cannibalism, but rather using a graphic illustration confirmed later when He spoke to the disciples of making His abode within them. By the Spirit, it is His desire to live within us, able to work from within a submitted vessel. To me, the communion elements proclaim this substance of the relationship.

The other reference would be Exodus 12: 8-11 where the children of Israel are commanded to eat the Passover lamb, and they are required to eat it all, leaving nothing uneaten by morning.

Jesus is our fulfillment of that Old Testament type, He is the true Lamb of God, and our Bread of life.

Jesus Himself once told the disciples that He had bread about which they did not know, speaking of the hunger satisfaction He received from doing the Father's will. Again, the connections are not physical- but very real none the less.

Hope that helps?

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/23 18:11

Got it! Thanks!

Re: - posted by ManOfGod (), on: 2014/7/23 18:23

Greetings to you all. Brother Havoc I apologize for posting so late, been running all over the past 2 days. To answer your question yes, but I would first make sure that they have a proper understanding as to why we take communion, and the consequences of taking it unworthily. Myself, I have taught others this for a while now because I just don't want to remember what Jesus did for me in church, but at home as well.

Jesus said do this in remembrance of me; when Jesus took it with His disciples we must remember they weren't at church, they were at a house(Luke 22:10) the disciples went from house to house breaking bread (acts 2:46).

Once again for lack of time,must cut it short. Lord Willing tonight I'll get back on and comment some more. I'm headed to church, Pray for us. Love you all and God bless.

Re: - posted by ManOfGod (), on: 2014/7/23 23:23

Kratfrau, what I say, I say in love. The question is not what Will others think, but what does God think? What does His Word say? So often, we as people try to please the crowd and in doing so we deny Christ and miss out with God.

We have talked about communion, but did you know that baptism is a commandment as well? In fact, it was the Son of God, Jesus Christ Himself who said

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus commands His disciples to go and teach all nations, and when they have come to the acknowledgement of who Christ is and what He has done by the Work on the Cross, and after they repent He says baptize them!

He goes on to say that the Disciples must teach the new converts to observe the commandments that Lord Gave them. So not only is He telling the disciples to Baptize but He is saying teach them the commandments so that when they spiritually mature enough to teach others that they baptize also.

We see from the Scriptures that Jesus commanded the Disciples to Baptize. Not only that, but Jesus believed in Baptism so much, He was baptized Himself (Matt 3). Why? Jesus tells John He needs to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He knew He couldn't teach us to do something He hadn't done Himself. He was baptized not to be cleansed, (as some think) He is Sinless, but rather to show to the world that He is clean.

Having said all that, my point is this. As Christians, we are called to be like Christ. Christ taught Communion and Baptism. Christ took Communion and was baptized. If Jesus thought it was important enough that He did it, shouldn't we do it?

He said in John 14:15 if ye love me keep my commandments.

The Quakers were great people, but we must examine them in light of God's Word. The Muslims pray 5 times a day, the Jehovah Witness send people out everyday to invite people to their church, despite those good traits they do not line up with God's Word and that is what we must Judge by.

Love you all, Hope everybody is doing well. God bless.

Re: To TMK and ManofGod, on: 2014/7/24 4:02

Brothers

My point about the Quakers, and I must emphasize that I mean the early development and not what is seen today, which has very little to do with what they were then, is that, the greatest revival that ever occurred in England, was amongst them.

As in true revivals, the effect on the areas in which it took place, was astonishing and even today, can still be felt in England, as it radically changed the society.

Seeing all men as equals, brought about massive changes and made Britain to be a world leader in social reform. It is rapidly disappearing, but up until now, the disabled and sick have been cared for generously, and prisoners treated with more respect than in other places. Until recently, you could expect the government to provide the care and help you needed in adversity. That is why so many have flocked to live here.

There was also revival and a great deal of social change due to the Salvation Army under General Booth, and they did not take communion or baptize in water either.

I am not saying that revival came *because* of these beliefs, which are entirely scriptural, otherwise they, as born again believers, would not have accepted them, just a different interpretation of the text, but revival came anyway, which seem to demolish your arguments about it being so important for them to be obeyed in the physical sense you are claiming.

If your church which practices them in this way, is living like the early Quakers did, then you have an argument, but I know that it is not because if it was, the whole world would be looking at it and there would be revival. Does your church treat the sick and vulnerable like the others and provide for all of their needs? Well the early Quakers lived like that. Is your church changing your society as regards to social injustice? Well they were doing that.

So they showed that they kept the commandments better than your church are doing. They taught baptism in the Spirit to cleanse a man from all sin, and that we are to feed on the body and blood of Christ moment by moment so that His life is manifest in us and we do not sin.

The reason why the Jewish ceremonies of baptism and communion continued during the early years of the church, were to show that they were being superceded by Christ, particularly shown by Him in His own baptism when the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, which fully explained what the symbol of the water baptism under the OC meant, and was to be replaced by.

Those who had come to a deeper understanding of what these symbols signified, and were cleansed from sin, were no longer required to continue in them, but for others, they could continue to encourage themselves for a future hope.

It is not wrong to interpret the sacraments in this physical symbolic way, but there should come a time when the symbols are fulfilled in our lives with the spiritual reality they came to signify, and where we can see the deeper meaning of them.

So I am not saying that brethren should not be continuing in the general understanding of them if they wish, but that it cannot be proven from history that it is absolutely vital to do so, and a short investigation of those who did not, and believed in the spiritual understanding of the elements, will show some of the most holy productive saints we have ever seen in the church.

Re: - posted by ManOfG0d (), on: 2014/7/24 7:55

Good morning Krautfrau, thanks for the reply. I'm on the way to work right now but let me ask you a question: Where is your Scripture to back up what you say? Please show me in the Bible.

I look forward to your reply, have a good day.

Re: , on: 2014/7/24 8:57

ManOfG0d

Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is Spiritual (not with the elements of bread and wine) (Jn. 6:32-58 and Rev.3: 20).

John 6:53-57

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

There is also only one Baptism (Eph. 4:5). This is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit not the baptism in water (Acts 1:4,5).

1 Peter 3:21

21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-7

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

1 Corinthians 12:13

13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Physical and Spiritual Natures

Quote: The Quakers are known for their concept of "practicing" Christianity, believing in "living" Christianity rather than having "doctrinal" Christianity¹. This emphasis is complete, for the Quakers do not practice baptism, the Lord's Supper, or any physical rite; instead, they believe in the "baptism of the Spirit" and having meetings where the communion is in the unity of the Spirit. Quaker theology is essentially the working of the Spirit, with little to be left for the physical nature: man comes to God by the working of the Spirit, and his only comprehension of God can be through the Spirit. Is this what the Scriptures teach?

It is certainly true that the Spirit is to work within us and that there are important spiritual natures to such things as baptism and the Lord's Supper. Nevertheless, we do not see evidence that the physical aspects of these practices are to be omitted. Christianity was never meant to be a purely physical religion, but it also was never meant to be a religion without any physical action. We have positive commandments to be immersed in water for the remission of our sin and for the partaking of the Lord's Supper (see Baptism and The Lord's Supper for these commandments), and we see them being performed physically by Christ and His disciples. The Quakers were correct in condemning the attitudes of other denominations of the time, which treated these acts as physical rites with no spiritual value within them; the reaction of completely rejecting the physical nature of baptism and the Lord's Supper, however, is just as unjustifiable.

We certainly will not reject the Spirit's work in the conversion of man from sinner to Christian; however, we see that the agency of the Spirit is extremely similar to the agency of the Word of God. Both assist in convicting the sinner of his sin (John 16:8; Titus 1:9), sanctifying man (1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17), calling mankind out of sin (Revelation 22:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:14), and finally, in the need to be born again (John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23). We therefore hear the words of Paul in Romans 10:17:

So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- See more at: <http://www.astudyofdenominations.com/denominations/quaker/#sthash.taYnAiFW.SgYASFe3.dpuf> END QUOTE.

For myself, I have not taken communion for 15 years and can say that although there was some small degree of emotional response in doing so, I have grown much more spiritually in this time, thinking that I am feeding from Him daily, having been baptised by the Spirit and walking in the light, both as spiritual concepts and not physical ones.

Have a good day!

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/24 11:17

Quote:
-----Those who had come to a deeper understanding of what these symbols signified, and were cleansed from sin, were no longer required to continue in them, but for others, they could continue to encourage themselves for a future hope.

It is not wrong to interpret the sacraments in this physical symbolic way, but there should come a time when the symbols are fulfilled in our lives with the spiritual reality they came to signify, and where we can see the deeper meaning of them.

So I am not saying that brethren should not be continuing in the general understanding of them if they wish, but that it cannot be proven from history that it is absolutely vital to do so, and a short investigation of those who did not, and believed in the spiritual understanding of the elements, will show some of the most holy productive saints we have ever seen in the church.

This idea borders much on the edge of gnosticism. Especially the first paragraph. You are right to say that we should not just be participating in symbolic things that have no meaning to us nor any impact in our lives, but I do not think it is right to say that once we understand their meaning, we can opt-out.

I believe, and I think the scriptures show it as well, that both baptism and the Lord's supper are more than just symbols. Now I don't believe in baptismal regeneration nor Eucharistic regeneration. But just because those things don't save us does not mean we can divorce them from our lives or from the events that give them significance. It bothers me quite a bit to see that someone will make a profession of faith and then baptize them months or years later when they are REALLY ready to commit. It also bothers me that the Lord's Supper is treated like just a symbol or a reminder of what Jesus did for us. Even if that were true, I needed to be reminded way more often than 4 times a year. However, there is a very real work of God going on in our lives when we properly participate in communion. There is a very real work of God going on in church when a new convert is baptized.

Just because I understand perfectly (and I am not saying I do) what baptism and communion are about does not mean that I don't have to do them anymore (not that baptism is continuous). If I understand what communion is about, then that ought to make me desire to do it more. If I understand why people are baptized, then that should make me want to see it happen as close to conversion as possible.

Re: - posted by Man0fG0d (), on: 2014/7/25 0:06

Evening to you guys, how is everybody? I've been trying to finish up 2 jobs today, so I've been busy.

Bro havoc, you will have to educate me, I'm not a smart person. What is Gnosticism?

Krautfrau, I have studied the Scriptures. The Bible says all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. That means every Scripture has its perfect place, and purpose and in no way does it contradict. The Word of God is pure, and infallible.

Jesus told the multitude in John 6 unless they eat His flesh and drink His blood they would not have eternal life. Jesus is the Word, so He was telling them if they did not partake of the Word of God, if they did not eat and drink the Word they would not have eternal life.

Their fathers ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. There are many churches today that are trying to feed the multitude "manna" such as their opinions, thoughts, belief and doctrines, but Jesus said if you want eternal life you must eat His flesh, and drink His blood. You must live off Him, because He is the way, truth, and life.

So what does the Word say? That Jesus took His disciples into an upper room and that He gave them bread to eat and drink from the vine. He said do this in remembrance of me.

What does the Word say? That the disciples in Acts broke bread, and took Communion. Is Communion spiritual? ABSOLUTELY! Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11 that as often you eat this bread and drink this cup you do show the Lord's death till He come.

The Bible also says that faith without works is dead! So Jesus and the apostles physically took Communion! Paul didn't tell the Corinthian church that Communion was only symbolic, or only a spiritual thing. He told them what it stood for, and why they did it (spiritual). Then He told them to examine themselves and how to go about doing it (physical.)

If you haven't been baptized into Christ then Water Baptism does you no Good. The Bible said if any man be in Christ, He is a new Creature. Old things are passed away (dead) all things are become new.

When we repent of our sins and are saved, we are buried with Christ, and Baptized into His death. God raises us up as new creatures, Quickened by the Spirit, alive in Christ. We have been made new, and filled with His Spirit.

After the sinner has repented of His sins and is buried and risen with Christ, He is to be baptized for the remission of sins according to the Scripture. To show that He is no longer who he once was but He has died and resurrected in Christ (symbol) He gets baptized (physical).

Where Jesus, Paul, Peter, Phillip, John and all the other Apostles baptized in the Spirit? Yes. Did Jesus command His Disciples to Baptize new converts in water? Yes. Did Jesus get baptized in water? Yes. After Jesus was baptized did John continue to Baptize in water? Yes. Did Jesus baptize people in water? Yes.

After Jesus ascended to the Father, Did the Apostles continue to Baptize converts in water? Yes, after they were saved and Filled with the Spirit of God. Did any of the Apostles dismiss water baptism as mere symbolism As they're death and resurrection with Christ? No, they took them to be baptized.

My dear friend, if Jesus commanded it, we must obey it. If the church we read about in the Bible did it, We must do it. We must be baptized in the Spirit and we must uphold water baptism. I am in no way arguing Scripture. Scripture is Scripture and it is all right. It is also all important.

Sorry it's taken me so long to reply I worked a crazy day today. Hope you're doing well. Love you.

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/7/25 1:37

I love your energy, ManOfGOD!

Gnostics believe that spiritual things are good, physical things are bad. In the annals of Christendom, gnostics taught men to neglect their bodies to "punish" the evil flesh, to regard sexual intercourse as evil, even eating tasty food was wrong. It was an easy trap for the self-righteous to wallow in pride and oppress others.

Paul deals with this in several places, I like his direct shot in Colossians 2:23 where he describes these self degrading practices as having an appearance of wisdom in man-made religion, but as having no value in restraining the flesh.

Gnosticism is prolific in Eastern religions with Zen and Karma concepts, men striving to accommodate the spiritual world they know surrounds them, but refusing the Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of all genuine spiritual wisdom.

Alas they become easy prey for Satan who prowls the dark streets of the spiritual nether world seeking agents for his deceptive criminal enterprise.

Re: , on: 2014/7/25 3:54

Quote:
-----ust because I understand perfectly (and I am not saying I do) what baptism and communion are about does not mean that I don't have to do them anymore (not that baptism is continuous). If I understand what communion is about, then that ought to make me desire to do it more. If I understand why people are baptized, then that should make me want to see it happen as close to conversion as possible.

Dear havok20x

It is not merely about understanding, it is having the spiritual realities made effective. Feeding on Him by faith, means that we have His life in us and we are walking as He walked, in absolute obedience to the father. In this case, partaking in the symbols is meaningless, as the prophecy they symbolised, have been fulfilled in us.

Baptism is continuous. Being baptised in the Spirit is a moment by moment yielding to Him which can end at any time.

Re: , on: 2014/7/25 4:01

Dear Man

When Jesus told them to show forth His death, it was for the period that He was gone. He did return to them, alive from the dead, and then at Pentecost, they were made part of Him through the Holy Spirit. Not all who come to Christ are immediately baptised in the Spirit, and have their own Pentecost, and for these, partaking in the elements, is to encourage them for what is to come, if they follow Him according to the Apostles teaching and desire holiness. Sadly many do not and disbelieve what the Lord wanted to achieve for us in the restoration.

It is the same for water baptism, it is a token and a prophecy of what is to come, hopefully.

So this is why we still see the sacraments taking place in the early church.

What happens to a person who does not partake in the physical forms thinking that they are spiritually applied in them?

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/25 9:21

One of the tenets of gnosticism is that God is a dark, mysterious God who cannot be known except by secret knowledge

Gnostics easily snuck into the church because they taught that young, naive Christians would believe a certain way, but those who were mature would have a totally different, more-or-less secret set of beliefs. It was rather strange. They definitely taught 2-tier christianity.

Re: , on: 2014/7/25 9:38

havok20x

Quote:
-----Gnostics easily snuck into the church because they taught that young, naive Christians would believe a certain way, but those who were mature would have a totally different, more-or-less secret set of beliefs. It was rather strange. They definitely taught 2-tier christianity.

They did not teach holiness though, as a reality not as a spiritual holiness that can be contained in a sinful body. In fact what is being taught in the church ie that we can sin and still be in Him is actually gnosticism.

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/7/25 11:31

I agree with Havok and Krautfrau, gnosticism is a way to separate flesh and spirit in such a way as to condemn sinful flesh and yet continue to enjoy debauchery- believing one's spiritual affairs are in perfect order.

It is the pinnacle of human arrogance to believe we can put one over on God!

Re: - posted by ManOfGod (), on: 2014/7/25 23:49

1 Timothy 4:1 KJV

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Thank you for teaching me Sidewalk and Havoc. Gnosticism sounds like a doctrine of devils as described in the Scripture above.

Thank you Krautfrau, for encouraging me to study the Scripture more. Once again, I must apologize for answering so late. I just got out of church, We had an awesome service the Spirit of God came down and helped people Tonight. Pray for us that we make it Home safely.

It is very important for us as Christians to be in Communion with Christ everyday through Prayer and partaking of the

Word of God. However, we must remember that after Jesus was resurrected and after He ascended to the right hand of God that The Apostles still took Communion, and that P that When Paul taught the Corinthian church how to go about taking Communion, He didn't just tell them that it was symbolic but He told them to examine themselves so that could be clean. In order to take communion we must be righteous and have a relationship with Christ.

Are you saying that water baptism is only a prophecy of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible says that Jesus came to Baptize us with the Holy Ghost and with Fire however after the Holy Ghost descended the Lord did not do away with water Baptism. Consider these Scriptures:

Acts 10:44-48 KJV

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

These disciples were already baptized in the Holy Ghost. Yet Peter still commanded them to be baptized in water. He did not dismiss the water baptism as something only symbolic, or as a shadow of things to come. This shows us that both the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the Baptism of water are important. If the Lord commanded His disciples to do it we must obey Him.

To answer your question, the Bible says we must grow in grace and wisdom. That we must study to shew thyself approved unto God. We must Pray that those who do not physically partake of these ordinances because they think they're on ly symbols read the Bible and come to the acknowledgement of the truth.

We must also pray for those who physically participate in these instructions without daily being in Communion with Christ and who have no living relationship with God.

Faith without works is dead. If ye love me keep my commandments. If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh, ye shall live.

Matthew 23:25 KJV

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Matthew 23:23... These ought ye to have done, and not have left the other undone.

Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word of God.

Love you brother hope you have a goodnight.

Re: , on: 2014/7/26 4:30

Quote:
-----It is very important for us as Christians to be in Communion with Christ everyday through Prayer and partaking of the Word of God. However, we must remember that after Jesus was resurrected and after He ascended to the right hand of God that The Apostles still took Communion , and that P that When Paul taught the Corinthian church how to go about taking Communion, He didn't just tell them that it was symbolic but He told them to examine themselves so that could be clean. In order to take communion we must be righteous and have a relationship with Christ.

The only record we have of Christians taking communion, which does not include the apostles, is when Paul is talking about the Corinthians bad behaviour regarding the meal at their gatherings, and reminding them that the Lord's Supper, also signified that they were all to be of one body, not to be divided into rich and poor.

It was the principle behind it that he was explaining, and where they were wrong in being greedy and they were eating unworthily, and were guilty of the body and blood of the Lord not discerning the Lord's body ie the church members.

He was not giving instructions on how to conduct the ritual, this they already knew and all of those who were waiting for the Lord to come to keep reminding themselves of His promise to come to them as His true presence as the bread of life and the vine.

I will quote some Quaker understanding here:

Quote:
-----1Cor.11:26, which states that "whoever partakes of the bread and the cup proclaims His death until He comes."
Fox sees a definite "time limit" for observing an eating/drinking ordinance, and that time limit is reached when the believer senses the Presence of the Risen Christ. Fox will then immediately jump to I John 5:20, as a biblical confirmation of his (and other early Quakers): "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." For Fox, the limit Paul describes in 1 Corinthians is fulfilled; Christ is present. Why proclaim Christ's death when He is alive and present. When the Bridegroom is present, it is a time of celebration, not mourning.

You wrote:

Quote:
-----These disciples were already baptized in the Holy Ghost. Yet Peter still commanded them to be baptized in water. He did not dismiss the water baptism as something only symbolic, or as a shadow of things to come. This shows us that both the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the Baptism of water are important. If the Lord commanded His disciples to do it we must obey Him.

Once again, the scripture tells us that there is one baptism not two, and we are looking at a period in history when it had to be made clear to the Jews, that their religion was now superceded by Christ, from the physical signs and shadows to the spiritual which Jesus demonstrated clearly at His own water baptism, which was otherwise un-necessary.

They also kept the ritual of circumcision for a while and it was not banned. They just needed time to understand and adjust and also for them to come to the end of serving Christ in their flesh and have the true communion with Him which most find later on in their walk.

I don't think we will argue regarding the immaturity of the Corinthians.

Thanks you for your kind words brother but I am in fact a sister.

Re: - posted by ManOfG0d (), on: 2014/7/27 23:13

Sister, I do apologize. That felt like one of those open mouth insert foot moments. Did you have a good weekend?

The Bible says that Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Sister, history has nothing to do with this. These were clear commandments given out by the Lord, that we must obey. The reason Jesus was baptized was because (in His own Words) He had to fulfill all righteousness. If Jesus only got baptized as a symbol of something greater, He would have said that. God was pleased with Jesus because He was obedient to the Father, because He did what was required to please Him

Baptism wasn't just a Jewish custom, it was something commanded by Jesus to every nation the disciples went into. In the book of acts we read that the gentiles were Baptized in the Holy Ghost and then got baptized in water.

You said the Jews had to be shown that their religion was superseded by Christ. I agree, religion killed Jesus. However, look at this verse.

Acts 10:47 KJV

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Peter said that they(the gentiles) had received the Holy Ghost as well as we (the group of Jews with Him)

These Jews had the Holy Ghost, If what you say was true then they would've known better and would've told Peter that that wasn't necessary since they had been baptized with the Holy Ghost already and water baptism was only a symbol of the Holy Ghost Baptism.

But they didn't forbid him, or say anything to turn him from that. Because they knew it was a commandment!

Jesus was baptized, The disciples were Baptized. The Jews got baptized; the gentiles got Baptized, we read also about an Ethiopian man getting baptized! They all wanted to be like Christ and fulfill all righteousness.

Sis, we must not take History over the Word of God. History may say that Water Baptism was only for a certain time period but what about the Scripture where it says Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever?

History says that Noah was a drunk who sold Beer, history says that Jesus was a Homosexual and also had an affair with Mary Magdalene. History says that the bones of Jesus were discovered a couple years ago.

This is why Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word of God.

History may say many things but on Judgement day we will be judged by the Word of God. That is why we must study to shew ourselves approved unto God. We read in the Word that the Church continued in these instructions after Christ ascended and after the Holy Ghost came. We do not read in the Scripture where these are called symbols are dismissed as no longer needed.

If the Bible says it as Christians we must believe it.

Again, I apologize for the mix up. I felt Terrible about that. I Pray that you are doing well. Thanks again and God bless.

Re: , on: 2014/7/28 6:23

Brother

No need to apologise or to feel bad. No harm done, it is an easy mistake if one does not use a gender specific nickname in the English language that is,(frau) is German for woman).

Quote:
----- If Jesus only got baptized as a symbol of something greater, He would have said that. God was pleased with Jesus because He was obedient to the Father, because He did what was required to please Him

Jesus was fulfilling the law at that time by being baptised but at the some time the something greater took place, He was baptised in the Spirit. He was showing what the previous symbol of the water was now established as ie the physical becoming spiritual, as in all of the ceremonies etc previously and showing moreover, that He was now the baptiser, He would baptise His followers in the Holy Spirit and this was His command. Of course the father was pleased with Him for lowering Himself to receive the water baptism when He was creator.

Water baptism still took place as you say, and Gentiles indeed may have wished to have the water baptism which was the sign of conversion to the Jewish religion. I don't think that things would have been clear cut in that interim period and there would have been confusion too as likewise with circumcision which did not cease at first and many were not baptised in the Spirit straight away and are still not.

There was no need to lay down laws about it, it was just a physical thing and now in the Kingdom, what stood was the inner reality. Water never did anything anyway. It never did or does today, make a man righteous. How many unbelievers get it done and continue to live an unrighteous life? The command is to be baptised in the Spirit which really does change a man.

If it is so important that man is water baptised, then I must ask again why there was an amazing revival amongst the early

Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Lord's Supper/Communion.

y Quakers who strongly taught against Jewish ceremonies and Jewish ways like water baptism. communion, uniforms, temples, anything in the physical realm when Jesus had shown that it was to end and the Spirit living in man would be all that mattered.

That is why brother there is so much sin in the church. Many think that they have obeyed with water and have not been baptised in the Spirit and so cannot live the Christian life. So actually partaking in the water, has given them false assurance. The preaching of the Quakers was very much on these lines.

Thank you my weekend was good and I hope yours was too. Any day is the same for me, now that He dwells within me. Everyday is a Hol(y)day.