



TWO ORDINANCES CHRIST INSTITUTED BEFORE HIS DEATH

Before His death Christ put into His plan for His followers two ordinances, both of which have deep spiritual significance. These, like all other things Jesus did and commanded, are based upon love.

1. After the Passover supper and before His betrayal what ordinance did Jesus first institute in the upper room? **John 13:1-17**

Note: **The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper** - "Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death. As He ate the Passover with His disciples, He instituted **in its place** the service that was to be the memorial of His great sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established was to be observed by His followers in all lands and through all ages." DA 652

2. Did the disciples understand Christ's action? **Verse 12**

Note: Evidently not, because Jesus plainly stated, "What I do thou knowest not now. Verse 7. Again He made it clear that this was a unique condition of partnership with Him when He said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Verse 8. Further, had they understood its significance He would not have had to probe them with this final question: "Know ye what I have done to you?" Verse 12.

3. Did Jesus expect His disciples to enter into the repetition of His action in washing one another's feet?

Note: Three verses prove conclusively that Jesus' followers are to imitate His example in this rite. He said, "Ye also ought to wash one another's feet." Verse 14. Christ added, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verse 15. He concludes by saying, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Verse 17.

4. What is there in this service for us?
 - a. It memorializes Christ's life of service.
 - b. On that occasion there was jealousy and strife among the disciples (Luke 22:24). Therefore when Jesus washed their feet, they were humbled. Hence, this rite serves to keep the proper loving spiritual relationship between brethren.

- c. This rite also serves as a miniature rebaptism. Read John 13:10. One who is washed (the washing of baptism) needs not to be rebaptized when he makes a mistake. He has not lost faith in Christ. The feet washing is a continual assurance of Christ's cleansing grace.
 - d. As a memorial to Christ's service, it can teach us to humble ourselves to serve others to whatever extent or depth necessary.
5. Before leaving the upper room, after He had washed the disciples' feet, what final ordinance did Jesus institute? **Matthew 26:26-28**
- "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; 10:16, 17)

Note: To get the most out of this service, the Lord's Supper, involves a fourfold act of devotion:

1. There is the act of self-examination (1Cor. 11:28).
2. There is also the act of dependence. Jesus is the bread and the vine (John 6:48-58; 15:1-5).
3. There is the act of remembrance of the Lord's death (1Cor. 11:24-26).
4. There is the act of hope "till He come" (1Cor. 11:26).

Conclusion—The communion service consists of two parts: First, the foot washing service, a test of our true attitude toward one another. It is also a reminder we must be clean when approaching the Lord's table (1Cor. 10:21). Second, the Lord's Supper symbolizes God's means of atonement for our sins. We cannot claim to love Jesus and refrain from the great memorial of His love for us.