



## **What is a SACRAMENT?**

- A Sacrament is an action of the Church which has been instituted by God and commended by Christ.
- Sacraments are signs of Christ's presence and power and are symbols of God's action.
- Through the Sacraments, God seals believers in redemption, renews their identity as the people of God, and marks them for service.

## **What are the Sacraments?**

- ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians recognizes BAPTISM and THE LORD'S SUPPER as the only Sacraments of the Church.



## **What is BAPTISM?**

- Baptism involves a person being put into water (either becoming submerged, or just wetting the head) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **What is the Significance of Baptism?**

- Baptism is the sign and seal of God's grace and our response. In baptism we recognize God's free grace to us as sinners and we respond in obedience to his command. Our salvation is not tied to the moment of baptism, but each baptism requires us to look forward (in the case of

infants) or backward (in the case of adults) to the day of our salvation in Christ.

- Through baptism we are identified with Jesus Christ (through the symbolic act of dying and rising again) and with the people of God (in the symbolic act of circumcision) throughout all time and from all places.

**As a symbol, the waters of baptism have a rich meaning. Baptism signifies:**

- the faithfulness of God
- the washing away of sin
- rebirth
- putting on the fresh garment of Christ
- being sealed by God's Spirit
- adoption into the covenant family of the Church
- resurrection and illumination in Christ

**Who Should be Baptized?**

- Both believers who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ as well as the children of believers should be baptized.
- The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. And the baptism of those who enter the covenant upon their own profession of faith witnesses to the truth that God's gift of grace calls for fulfillment in a response of faithfulness.

**Can I be Baptized Again?**

- No. Baptism is the symbol of God's grace and faithfulness to his people. Just as God is always faithful and His faithfulness needs no renewal, there is no need to be re-baptized. However, regardless of when you were baptized, whether last week or sixty years ago, it is

important to remember that our human faithfulness needs constant renewal at every stage. This is not done by re-baptism (which is only done to signify the beginning of life in Christ) but by a reaffirmation of faith and the commitments made at baptism.

### **Can I Baptize Someone Else?**

- Probably not. Baptism is an act of the Church and is not to be taken lightly. Therefore this is a responsibility entrusted to the session of the church which is to be administered only by a minister of the Word and Sacrament, or by a commissioned lay pastor.



### **What is THE LORD’S SUPPER?**

- The Lord’s Supper (sometimes called the Lord’s Table, Communion, or Eucharist—which means thanksgiving) is a gathering of Christians eating bread and drinking wine (or grape juice) as we remember Jesus’ death until he comes again.

### **What is the Significance of the Lord’s Supper?**

- The Lord’s Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. As the bread we break symbolizes the body of Christ and the wine represents his blood, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. As we remember, we give thanks for God’s faithfulness to his people and for his grace.
- As we eat the bread and drink the wine, we symbolize the spiritual reality of being fed by Christ. Just as food and drink feeds our bodies, so we are fed spiritually and gain life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- The Lord's Supper is also a communion with other Christians. Every time we gather at the Table, we are united with the Church in every place. It is a reminder that we are not called only to a relationship with God, but also to a relationship with His people, the Church.
- Beyond being a symbol of Jesus' death and the communion of believers, the Lord's Supper is a foretaste of the Kingdom Meal. This means that as we partake of the Lord's Supper we do not only look back to the sacrifice of Jesus, but we eagerly anticipate his return. The Bible often speaks of the Church as the Bride of Christ and refers to his return as a time of the wedding feast. Therefore, in the Lord's Supper, we look forward to Christ's return, the unity between Christ and His Bride, and the celebratory feast.

**Can I Participate in the Lord's Supper?**

- Maybe. You do not have to be a member of this church to participate, but you do need to be a Christian. The Lord's Supper is open to all who have been baptized and instructed in its significance.

**Can I Administer the Lord's Supper?**

- Probably not. Like Baptism, the Lord's Supper is not to be taken lightly. This, too, is a responsibility which is entrusted to the session of the church and is to be administered only by a minister of the Word and Sacrament, or by a commissioned lay pastor.

~~~~~

**Have More Questions?**

- Call or email Joe and ask!

## **Some Bible Passages/Verses on Baptism**

### **Matt. 28:19**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

### **Acts 2:36-41**

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### **Rom 6:1-4**

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

### **Gal. 3:27**

...for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

### **Gen. 17:3-14**

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is my covenant with you and your

descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

**Col. 2:11-12**

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

**Eph. 4:4-6**

There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



**Some Bible Passages/Verses on the Lord’s Supper**

**Matt. 26:26-28**

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**1 Cor. 11:23-27**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he 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 took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this 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 manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.