



SACRAMENTS

MT Zion MBC Recognizes Two Sacraments Baptism and Holy Communion

Summit Presenter Sis. Dorothy Flemming

Rev. Timothy D. Hayes, Sr., Pastor
1 Lafayette Street
Stanton, Tennessee 38069

OLD TESTAMENT PARALLELS TO BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Old Testament correspondence to the sacrament of baptism is circumcision (**Genesis 17:9-14; 23-27**), and the correspondence to the Lord's Supper is the Passover **Meal** (Exodus **12:1-27**).

Circumcision was given as the sign of initiation into the Old Covenant community, while the regular observance of the Passover Meal was to signify a continual renewal of the covenant.

In the same way, baptism is the sign of Initiation into the New Covenant community (**Matthew 28:19; Galatians 3:26-29**), while the Lord's Supper signifies the regular remembrance **and** renewal of our covenant with God and each other (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**).

Thus, baptism **and** the Lord's Supper go hand-in-hand: the former as a once-for-all initiation into the covenant community and the latter as the continual renewal of the covenant. Based upon this understanding, the MT ZION MBC Pastor/Minister who administers the Lord's Supper to the congregation invites only those who are baptized believers to participate.

THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

- It is important to understand the symbolism of baptism in order to grasp its significance.

The New Testament tells us that the washing with water symbolizes the washing away of our sin (**Acts 22:16; 2:38**). Being "under" the water (whether figuratively or literally) symbolizes being dead **and** buried with Christ (**Romans 6:3-7; Colossians 2:11-12**); only when we identify with Christ in his death and burial can we share in a spiritual resurrection to newness of life that will be followed one day with our physical resurrection.

THE SACRAMENTS

Even more significant than this is the symbolism of the water itself. In the Old Testament, water often symbolized the judgment of God.

- ❑ For example, at the flood most of humankind was consumed by the waters of God's judgment, while Noah and his family passed through.
- ❑ At the crossing of the Red Sea the Egyptians were consumed by the waters of God's judgment while the Israelites passed through.
- ❑ Neither Noah and his family nor the Israelites were any less sinful or deserving of God's judgment than those who were consumed by God's wrath;
- ❑ rather, God showed great mercy to them and saved them by his grace.

In 1 **Peter** 3:20-22, Peter calls the flood a baptism and compares it to the baptism we experience in the Christian community. The water poured out in baptism symbolizes the *fact* that a person is rightly under the judgment of God and only God by his mercy and grace can bring him through that judgment and save him. This salvation, of course, is through faith in Christ, who is our “ARK”



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is an act of worship and a ceremonial meal in which we remember and renew our covenant relationship with God (vertical aspect) and with our brothers and sisters in Christ (horizontal aspect)

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during the Feast of the Unleavened Bread on the day the Passover Lamb was to be sacrificed (Matthew 26:17-30; **Exodus** 12:14-20), signifying that he himself would be the true Passover lamb: as the Passover celebration was to remind Israelites of their redemption from Egypt, so the Lord's supper is to remind us of our redemption from death and forgiveness of sin (1 **Corinthians** 11:23-26).



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

This covenant meal is our regular renewal of faith, or our regular recommitment to the Lord, which is why we examine our hearts before partaking of it.

- ❑ We often hear people speak of "recommitting their lives to the Lord"; we should keep in mind that this is what we do every time we take the Lord's Supper. Regarding the renewal of our covenant relationship with each other, sharing together in the Lord's Supper signifies the commitment we have to one another in the body of Christ.
- ❑ We must admit that there is nothing in the Bible that speaks about becoming a "member" of a church, or going through a "membership" process. What the Bible does speak about is forming a committed bond with each other through sharing together in this covenant meal **Acts** 2:41-47).

Thus, when you become a member of MT Zion MBC Church you will be making "official" what you have already proclaimed by regularly participating at the communion table with your brothers and sisters in Christ.