



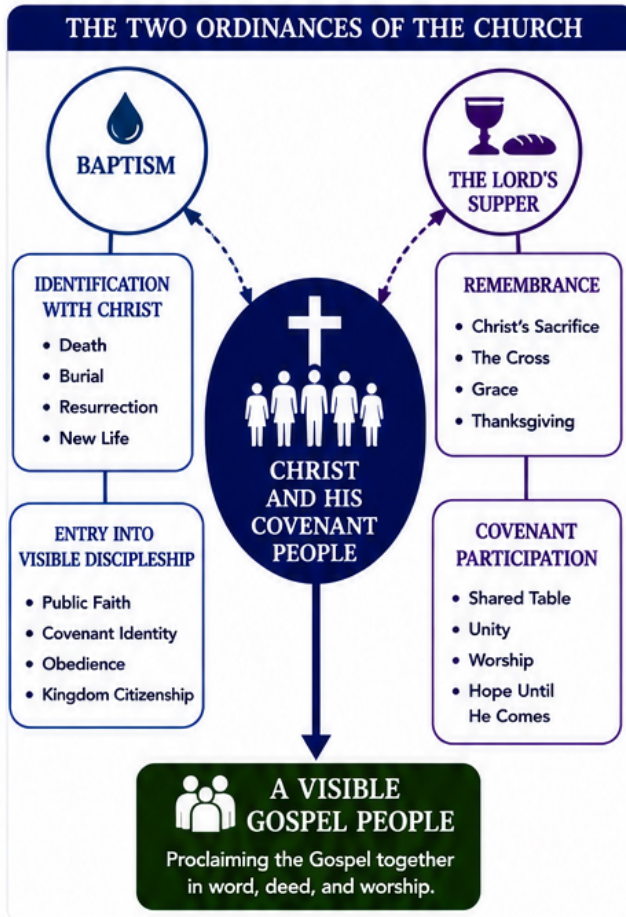
The Ordinances and Covenant Identity

Baptism and the Lord's Supper Visibly Declare Life Under Christ

Christ gave His church baptism and the Lord's Supper as visible covenant ordinances. These ordinances proclaim the Gospel, strengthen covenant identity, unite believers visibly under Christ, and remind the church of His death, resurrection, and coming Kingdom.

EMPTY RITUAL VS COVENANT ORDINANCE	
EMPTY RITUAL	BIBLICAL ORDINANCE
Mere Tradition	Gospel Proclamation
External Formalism	Covenant Participation
Private Symbolism	Gathered Worship
Religious Performance	Christ-Centered Remembrance
Passive Ceremony	Active Obedience
Empty Habit	Visible Faith

Ordinances are not empty rituals. They are visible covenant signs Christ gave His church.



KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 28:19–20
"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 6:3–4
"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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."

1 Corinthians 11:23–26
"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Acts 2:41–42
"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Luke 22:19–20
"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."



QUICK COMPARISON

ASPECT	BAPTISM	LORD'S SUPPER
Focus	Union with Christ	Remembrance of Christ
Visibility	Public identification	Gathered participation
Meaning	New life	Covenant remembrance
Community	Entry into visible discipleship	Shared worship and unity
Hope	Resurrection life	Until He comes

- ### ★ KEY TRUTHS
- ✓ Christ gave ordinances to His church.
 - ✓ Baptism visibly identifies believers with Christ.
 - ✓ The Lord's Supper proclaims the Gospel.
 - ✓ The ordinances strengthen covenant identity.
 - ✓ Worship and remembrance belong together.
 - ✓ The church gathers in hope until Christ returns.

THE BIBLICAL PICTURE

The ordinances point us to Christ, unite us to one another, and remind us of His sacrifice until He comes again.
(1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE BOTTOM LINE

The ordinances are visible covenant signs given by Christ to His church. Through baptism and the Lord's Supper, believers proclaim the Gospel, participate in gathered worship, strengthen covenant identity, and visibly declare life under Christ's reign.

TEACHER NOTE

Use this handout to help learners understand the purpose and meaning of the ordinances. Emphasize that baptism and the Lord's Supper are Christ-centered acts of worship, proclamation, obedience, and covenant participation within the gathered church.