

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 25
May 24, 2023
Ecclesiology, Part 2

The Offices of the Church

- **The two Biblical offices are _____ and deacon.**
 - Philip. 1:1: “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the _____ and _____:”
 - Other men such as missionaries and _____ are gifts to the church at large and must demonstrate the gifts, calling, and qualifications of a _____.
 - Eph. 4:11: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, _____ and teachers;”
- **The office of pastor.**
 - The three Biblical titles encompass the job description:
 - Bishop = _____ (1 Tim. 3:1)
 - A pastor is responsible to oversee the affairs of the church.
 - Elder = a _____ man (not young in the faith, 1 Pet. 5:1)
 - A pastor should lead by example.
 - Pastor = _____ (1 Pet 5:2, Eph. 4:11)
 - A pastor is to _____ the flock with God’s Word.
 - A pastor is to protect, guide, and care for members of the flock.
 - Luke 12:42-44: _____
 - These three titles all apply to the _____ office:
 - See 1 Pet. 5:1-3: _____
 - See Acts 20:17, 28: _____
 - The pastor’s _____ are detailed in two passages:
 - See 1 Tim. 3:1-7: _____
 - See Titus 1:6-9: _____
- **The office of _____.**
 - The title of the office is also the job description:
 - Deacon = _____, minister
 - The primary role is serving as opposed to overseeing or teaching the Word.
 - The first deacons were chosen so that the pastors would have more time to _____ and minister the Word.
 - Acts 6:3-4: “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this

_____ . *But we will give ourselves continually to _____ , and to the ministry of the word.*”

- The deacon’s qualifications are _____ to that of the pastor and are detailed in two passages:
 - See Acts 6:3: _____
 - See 1 Tim. 3:8-13: _____

The Ordinances of the Church

- **The two Biblical ordinances are baptism and the Lord’s _____.**
 - An ordinance is a rite ordained by Christ to be _____ performed by the local church.
 - Ordinances should be observed _____ by the local church, not privately or personally.
 - Ordinances are not _____ (means of grace).
 - Practices such as _____ handling and _____ washing were not commanded by Christ or observed by the early church.
 - John 13:14-15: _____
- **The ordinance of baptism**
 - Institution = at the Great _____
 - Matt. 28:19: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, _____ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*
 - Definition = to dip or _____
 - Baptize is a transliteration of the Greek word baptidzo.
 - Prerequisites = understanding and _____ in Christ
 - Acts 8:36-37: _____
 - Timing = as soon as possible after a person is _____ and understands the Lord’s will for baptism
 - Acts 2:41: *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same _____ there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*
 - Symbolism = the believer’s _____ with Christ’s death, burial, and Resurrection
 - See Rom. 6:3-4: _____
 - Purposes:
 - To reveal truth _____
 - To _____ Christ publicly
 - Acts 22:16: *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, _____ on the name of the Lord.”*

- To _____ a new believer with a local church
 - Common errors:
 - Baptismal _____ = the teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation or that it washes away sins.
 - Correct understanding:
 - *“Scripture is abundantly clear that purification from sin is not the result of baptism, but the act of baptism is so very closely _____ to the act of faith that they are expressed often as one act.”* (Thiessen).
- **The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper**
 - Institution = at the Last _____
 - 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 _____ of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*
 - Other names = _____ or the “breaking of bread”
 - Prerequisites = belief and _____
 - Frequency = “as oft” = not specified but _____
 - Symbolism:
 - The bread represents Christ’s _____ body.
 - 1 Cor. 11:24-25: *“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my _____, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my _____: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”*
 - The cup represents Christ’s shed _____.
 - Partaking of the elements represents a person’s past _____ of Christ’s saving work.
 - John 6:53-54: _____
 - Participation:
 - _____ = elements are distributed to all present with little or no qualifications
 - Closed = elements are distributed to _____ only in a closed service
 - _____ = elements are distributed to all baptized believers

present who wish to partake after appropriate self-examination

- Purposes (1 Cor. 11:23-26):
 - A _____ to Christ
 - A pledge of the New Covenant
 - A _____ of Christ's death
 - "Shew" = proclaim, declare, announce, preach
 - A _____ of Christ's coming
 - A time of _____ with Christ and His people
 - 1 Cor. 10:16-17: _____
- Common errors:
 - Transubstantiation
 - The Catholic doctrine that the elements become the _____ body and blood of Christ when consecrated.
 - Consubstantiation
 - The Lutheran doctrine that the literal body and blood of Christ are transmitted mystically along with the elements.
 - Correct understanding = Christ is present spiritually in the midst, but the elements are _____, nothing more.
 - Using _____ wine
 - Five reasons we may be confident that the cup of the Last Supper did not contain _____ wine:
 - Textual: The word _____ is never used to refer to the Last Supper or communion.
 - Historical: People had several methods for preserving _____ wine in ancient times.
 - Theological: Fermentation is a leavening process, and leaven was _____ at the Passover meal.
 - Typological: Leaven is a symbol of sin, and corrupt wine would not present the proper picture of Christ's _____ blood.
 - Prophetical: _____ wine will not be served in the kingdom of God, which the Lord's Supper anticipates.

The Government of the Church

- **Three common types of church government**
 - _____ or ecclesiastical
 - Ultimate authority is vested in various hierarchies of church

- _____ : priests, bishops, arch-bishops, etc.
 - Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican
- _____
 - Ultimate authority is vested in the _____ convening in sessions, presbyteries, synods, and general assemblies.
 - A distinction is made between pastors and _____ elders.
 - Reformed, Presbyterian
- Congregational
 - Ultimate authority is vested in the _____.
 - Denominations or associations are advisory only.
 - Baptist, Congregational, Methodist
 - This approach is the most _____ (Matt. 18:17).
- **The best approach to congregational church government follows a two-step process:**
 - The leaders _____ God's will, and the congregation _____ God's will.
 - See Acts 15:6-29: _____
 - Peter and James, along with the other apostles and elders, _____ the decision-making process.
 - The decision was _____ by the entire church (vs. 22, 25).