

1 Corinthians 11:26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.* We see the church joining together for baptism in Acts 2. These are things that baptized believers do as their duty, but it is a joy and a delight to do them.

Discussion Questions

- In what ways does being connected to other believers in a local church help you grow in your ability to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling”?
- Why do you think God gave the blessings of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism to the church rather than to individuals?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When you publicly identify yourself with Christ through baptism, you also identify yourself with His church. Imagine an emergency situation. If someone stands in the crowd and declares “I am a doctor,” then it is expected they have a duty to help people. If another declares, “I am a police officer,” we understand they have a duty to protect us. With baptism, a person declares, “I am a Christian. I am united with Jesus and a part of the body of Christ, the church.” Their duty, then, is to live as a functioning part of that body. Consider Ephesians 4:16 *...the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.* It is our duty to function properly in the body of Christ. If I do my duty and you do yours, the church will be blessed.

Discussion Questions

- What happens if someone declares they are a Christian, but then fails to act like one?
- Have you upheld your duty to live as a functioning part of the body of Christ?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 21st, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #101

Q: What is the duty of such who are rightly baptized?
A: *It is the duty of such who are rightly baptized to give up themselves to some particular and orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 15:5–6 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, [6] that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

After understanding it is God who first loved us, called us, and saved us from our sin, we follow in obedience with baptism. Certainly baptism is a blessing, but many have never considered that it also comes with a responsibility. This week we will look at the DUTY of the rightly baptized believer, primarily to gather for worship. Hebrews 10:24–25 says... *let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* How could we stir one another up if we were to never gather with other believers? How could we worship God corporately, study the Bible, fellowship with other believers, participate in the Lord's Supper, pray together, serve with our spiritual gifts, and love and support one another if we never gather as a church? The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” It’s in the name itself: we are the called out ones who assemble. There are many examples in the Bible of rightly baptized people who join the church and take up their duties. When Peter preached at Pentecost, many people were saved and then baptized. Acts 2:41 *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.* What were the people added to that day? The church.

Discussion Questions

- Do you tend to think of Baptism more as a milestone in the life of an individual? Or in the life of a church? Why?
- How many commands in scripture can you think of that would be hard to obey without being involved in a church?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The answer this week begins, “It is the duty of such who are rightly baptized to give up themselves to some particular and orderly church of Jesus Christ.” We can think and talk about the church in two ways. First we can talk about the universal church. The universal church is made up of everyone, everywhere, who has been regenerated and saved by Jesus Christ. Consider what 1 Corinthians 12:13 has to say. *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* Everyone who believes is a member of the universal church. Hebrews 12:23 says *and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven.* Are you enrolled in heaven? If so, you are part of the universal church. We can also talk about the local church. A local church is made up of a particular group of Christians who meet together locally. They may meet in a building, but the building is not the church. The gathered group of believers is the church. The local church is where Christian living is on display and where the enemies of Christ sense His power. It was the local church that Saul ravaged against. Acts 8:3 *But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.* Members of the universal church should seek membership in a particular local body of believers to serve and worship together.

Discussion Questions

- Does being a member of the universal church automatically make you a member of the local church? Why or why not?
- With today’s technology, is it still necessary for a local church to be “local”? How do you think “online church” fits with the idea of a local church?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Not only should baptized believers commit to a particular local church, this week’s question specifies it should be an orderly one. Yes, there are groups and churches that are dis-orderly and chaotic, but our Lord Jesus Christ is a God of order. 1 Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.* This was a rebuke of the Corinthian church who had gotten crazy. God was orderly in the six days of creation; He designed our bodies in an orderly way that keeps us alive; He created time so we could mark the passage of seasons and do all things in order. Even the plan of salvation was orderly. Galatians 4:4–5 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* As His church, God wants us to think and reason in orderly ways, too. Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.* When Paul was away traveling, he left the church with this... *For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ* (Colossians 2:5). Our duty is to be a part of an orderly church.

Discussion Questions

- Can you picture a judge rapping his gavel and calling for “order in the court”? Why is orderliness important?
- What are some different ways in which a church can demonstrate order?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Why should a baptized believer join a particular, orderly, local church? This week’s answer concludes with this reason: “that the baptized person may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” To walk blameless is what the apostle Paul calls to walk worthy. It is what Christians have been called to. Ephesians 4:1 *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.* Paul again calls Christians to...*walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God* (Colossians 1:10). This is the duty of a baptized believer. To walk blameless and worthy of our calling is to complete the plans that God has laid out for us. The accountability and fellowship of a local church helps us grow in our ability to keep God’s commandments. It is also the context in which we can follow and participate in the ordinances given to the church. We see the church joining together for the Lord’s supper.