

Discussion Questions

- Should people who are walking in unrepentant sin be taking the Lord's Supper?
- If repentance is required, should you only take the Lord's Supper if you have managed to keep from sinning the past week? Why or why not?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we looked at the requirement for those who take the Lord's Supper to have personally repented from dead works. Repentance is intimately tied to faith. Some have said they are two sides to the same coin. Others have called them both 'evangelical graces.' They are produced in the heart of the new believer when the Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the gospel to give the new birth to his people. As we consider more the requirement of repentance it reminds us of what the Lord's Supper is not. The supper is not a work for us to do that somehow makes us more acceptable to God. In Catholic theology, as well as for many others in practice, the Lord's Supper is something people do to make themselves more holy. The ironic thing about such practices is that they take an emblem of the New Covenant and turn it back into a 'dead work.' Such works are like those of the Old Covenant. Hebrews reminds us that "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats [or any other dead work] to take away sins. You will not absolve yourself of sins or make up for your evil deeds by going to church on Sunday and taking the Lord's Supper. Your sins can only be forgiven and washed away through faith in Jesus Christ. If you trust in him, then the Lord's Supper can become a joyful meal to take and benefit from.

Discussion Questions

- How can we turn the Lord's Supper into a 'dead work'?
- What about the supper reminds us of how we are truly saved?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 5th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #103

Q: Who are the proper subjects of this ordinance?

A: *They who have been baptized upon a personal profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance from dead works.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Acts 2:41-42 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we continue our study of the Lord's Supper. Last week we looked at the nature of the Supper. It is a meal commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore is to be taken by his church only in the way he has commanded. It is a meal of remembrance in which the grace of God brings blessing on those who take of this ordinance. Finally, it is only to be taken by those for whom it is intended. That brings us to this week's question, who are the proper subjects of the Lord's Supper? The answer is that is only for those who have been baptized. Why baptism? There have been many in recent days who have questioned the need to be baptized in order to take the Lord's Supper. They reason that as long as someone is a believer why should we single out baptism as necessary before taking the meal. The answer is that the supper is only for those who are members of God's church. Acts 2:41-42 *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* When we look at the example of the early church we see that baptism was the means by which those who believed the gospel were officially added to the church. Only after being added did they devote themselves to the breaking of bread.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the supper is only intended for members of Christ's church?
- How does that change your experience of the Lord's Supper to know it is only for members of Christ's church?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we began considering who are the appropriate partakers of the Lord's Supper. We saw that the supper is only for those who have been rightly baptized. This is because the supper is only for members of Christ's church and those who believe are added to the church through baptism. The importance of baptism to the Lord's Supper can be seen when we consider how the entrance and exit to the supper mirror the entrance and exit of people to the church itself. When a new believer first hears the gospel and professes faith in Christ, they are then baptized by the church and entered into membership. On the other end of things, when a member of the church commits severe and unrepentant sin the church excommunicates the sinner. In honor of Christ, and in hope of the sinner repenting, the gathered church puts the sinner outside of the fellowship. When we look at the Lord's Supper we see that the supper speaks about these same realities. When a new believer is joined to the church they know they are part of the fellowship because they regularly share the bread and cup with the other church members. Likewise, when an unrepentant sinner is excommunicated they have the supper removed. No longer do they share the fellowship of the meal they once did. By God's grace it is often this very withholding of the meal that he uses to wake up sinners to see and repent of their sin.

Discussion Questions

- Does it seem harsh to tell people they can't take the Lord's Supper? Why is it sometimes a loving action?
- What do you think it would feel like to lose the fellowship of the Lord's Supper due to your sin?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Our question this week continues in identifying who should take the Lord's Supper by noting that they should be those *baptized upon a personal profession of their faith in Jesus Christ*. No one becomes a member of Christ's church without first having faith in Jesus. This is why it is so contrary to scripture to baptize infants and add them to the church. The church is for believers. Accordingly, the Lord's Supper is intended only for those who are believers in Jesus Christ. As with baptism, there are some churches in our day who practice what is called paedocommunion. This practice offers the bread and the wine to any young child of believers as soon as they are old enough to eat and drink the elements. While this may be more consistent with the paedobaptist practice of adding infants of believers into the church, it is an unscriptural and foolhardy practice. We discussed last week the severity of taking the Lord's Supper when faith is not present. The Corinthian church faced sickness and even death as judgment for such presumption. While it may make us feel good to allow our young children to eat the bread or drink the cup, we cannot offer this if we care for their souls. Use the Lord's Supper as a time to point your young children to their need to first believe in Jesus for themselves. After they have believed, then they can be welcomed to share in baptism and then the Lord's Supper.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it sometimes hard to tell a young child he can't eat the bread or drink the cup when his parents do?
- Have you been admitted to the Lord's Supper? If not, will you turn and believe in Jesus today?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we noted that those who partake of the Lord's Supper must be those *baptized upon a personal profession of their faith in Jesus Christ*. Our catechism doesn't end with the requirement of faith but includes as well the requirement of repentance from dead works. It is notable that the gospel call in the Bible always includes both the call to repent of sins and to believe in the Lord Jesus. Jesus himself stated this in Mark 1:15 "...repent and believe in the gospel." We have often noted that the calls to repent and to believe are so tied together in the biblical teaching that often the writers will state only one of the two in order to indicate both. Peter in Acts 2 calls on his hearers to "repent and be baptized," with the assumption that faith is the very thing that was here required. Likewise, Paul in speaking to the Philippian jailer in Acts 16 tells him to, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." Paul is not discounting repentance, but rather he assumes it is included. As faith and repentance are so intimately tied in the gospel call, so here we see that those who take the Lord's Supper must be those who have repented of sins and believed in Jesus.