

# Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

## Chapter 9: Why Attend the Ordinances of the Church?

### **Introduction:**

For people who claim to be Christians, attending the worship of God with the people of God should always be a priority. But knowing that none of the ordinances of the church will be observed should only add to your determination to be there.

### **I. What are the ordinances? (I Corin. 11; Matthew 3)**

- A. A ceremony that the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded to be permanently practiced by the church (Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19)
- B. Ordinances are ceremonies given by Christ to the church, and not to individual Christians. (I Cor. 11:23-26)

### **II. Why attend the ordinance of baptism? (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- A. You Demonstrate commitment to the great commission.
  - 1. Those who become His disciples should openly identify themselves with Him in a specific way.
  - 2. If you are committed to the Great Commission, then you will prove it by your presence.
- B. You show commitment to the importance of baptism. (Acts 2:38)
- C. You accept a new member into the family. (Rom. 15:7)

### **III. Why attend the ordinance of the Lord's Supper?**

- A. It is commanded by Jesus. (I Cor. 11:23-26)
- B. It is loved by Jesus. (Luke 22:15)
- C. It is spiritual participation in the body and blood of Jesus. (Acts 2:42)
- D. It is a memorial to Jesus. (I Cor. 11:24-25)
- E. It is a proclamation of the death of Jesus. (I Cor. 11:26)
- F. It is an anticipation of the second coming of Jesus. (I Cor. 11:26)

### **IV. Other considerations.**

- A. Participating in the ordinances does not make you a Christian. (Titus 3:5-6)
- B. Participating in the ordinances is more important than almost every reason people give for not participating in them.
- C. Participating in the ordinances is necessary and a blessing. (Ps. 119:68)