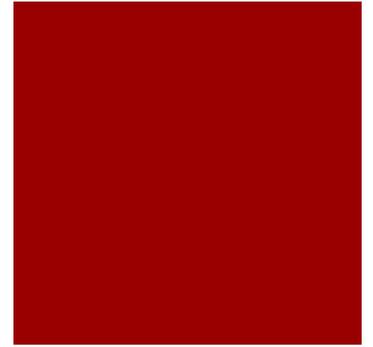


# Our Salvation

SESSION 1

# Galatians 3:26-28

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ like a garment. 28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”



# What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

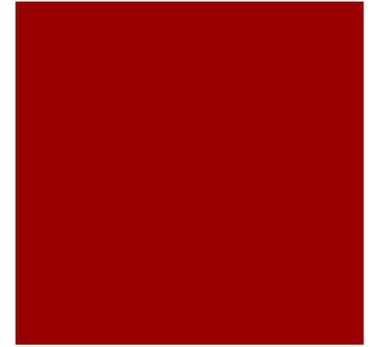


Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- . . . . some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- . . . . some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- some look for happiness by gaining **prestige and power.**

# What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

- But real contentment comes from understanding my purpose in life.



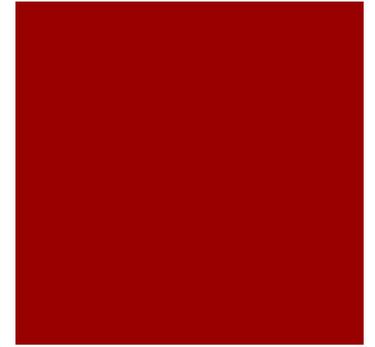


# WHY AM I HERE?

SESSION 1: OUR SALVATION

# WHY AM I HERE?

1. God made me to love me
2. We were created to enjoy a personal relationship with God and to manage all of the rest of God's creation.



# WHY AM I HERE?

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

Clear conscience (Rom. 8:1)

Confidence (Rom. 8:31)

Life and peace (Rom. 8:6)

Security (Rom. 8:39)

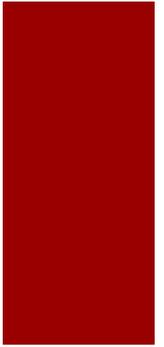
Help with weakness (Rom. 8:26)

Power and Strength (Phil. 4:13)

Purpose (Rom. 8:28)

Fulfillment (Phil. 4:19)

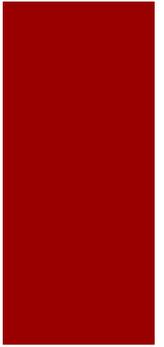
Freedom (John 8:32, 36)



# WHY AM I HERE?

This is the kind of lifestyle that God intends for us to live.

Why, then, aren't most people really content?



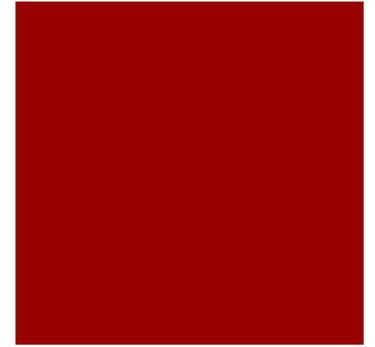


# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

SESSION 1: SALVATION

# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- People have a natural desire to be the boss and to ignore God's principles for living.
  - "Look out for number 1. Do your own thing."
  - "If it feels good, do it---regardless of what God says about it."
  - "It's my life and I'll do what I please."
- The Bible calls this attitude sin!



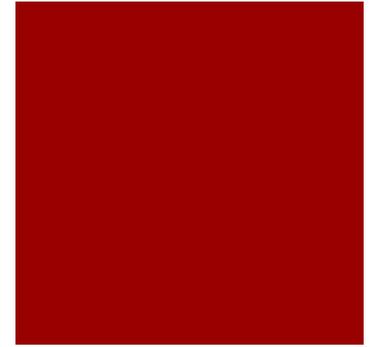
# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to avoid God and try to live our lives outside of His will.
- When our relationship with God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every other area of our lives—marriage, career, finances, etc. When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.



# WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:
  - "My mother was a Christian, so . . ."
  - "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you're sincere."
  - "I'll give up all my bad habits."
  - "I'll work real hard and earn it."
  - "I'll be religious and go to church."



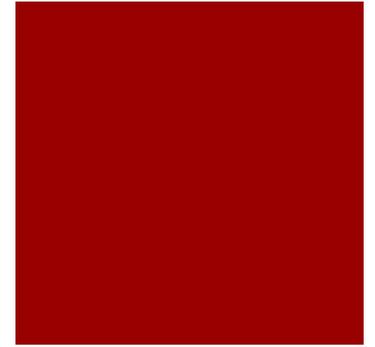


# WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

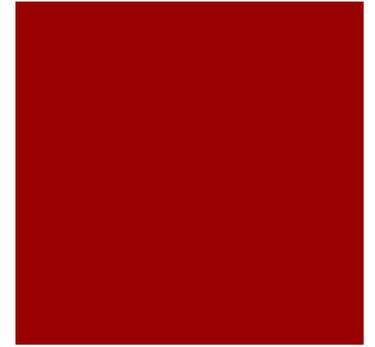
SESSION 1: SALVATION

# What's the Solution?

- Jesus Christ said, "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." *John 14:6*
- God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have come. The Way is a Person!



# What's the Solution?



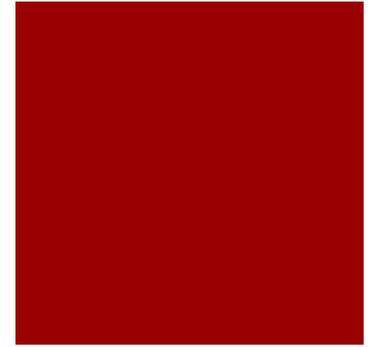
- **Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!**
  - *"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 6:23)
- God did this because He loves us and wants us to know Him.
  - *"And God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Rom. 5:8)
  - *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1 Timothy 2:5)



# WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

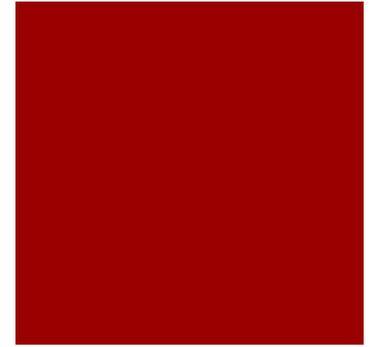
SESSION 1: OUR SALVATION

# What Does God Want Me to Do?



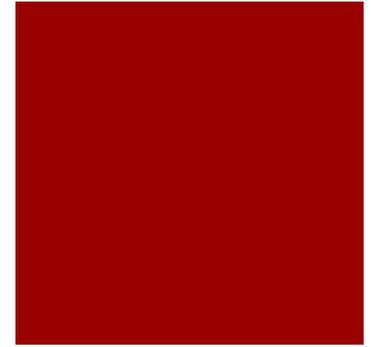
1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.
  - *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)
2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter, and is alive today.
  - *“That if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Rom. 10:9)

# What Does God Want Me to Do?



3. Receive God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.
  - *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
  - **Our relationship with God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!**

# What Does God Want Me to Do?



4. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord of your life.
  - *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name He gave the right to become children of God—children not born of natural descent, nor of human decision, nor a husband’s will, but born of God.” (John 1:12-13)*
  - *Jesus says, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20)*



## YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:

“Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me,  
Even when I have ignored You and gone my own way.  
I admit that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sins.  
I need you in my life. I ask you to forgive me.  
Thank You for dying on the cross for me.  
And I believe that You are  
alive today. As much as I know how, I want to  
follow You from now on. Please come into my life  
and make me a new person on the inside. I accept  
Your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow as a Christian.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

*“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Rom. 10:13)*

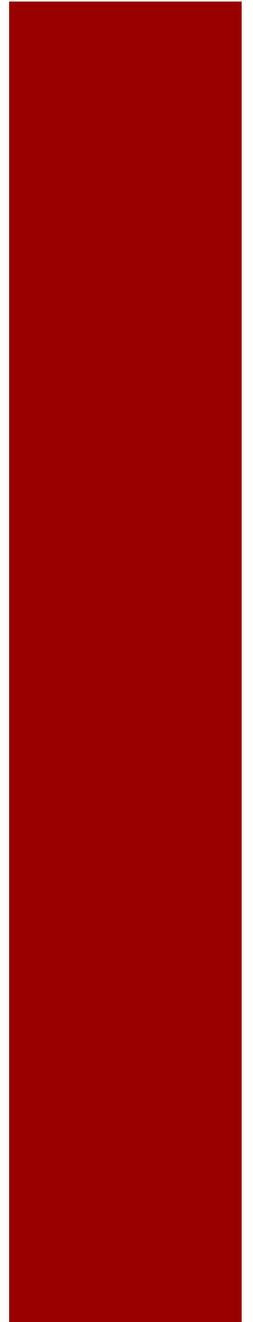


## WHAT DO I DO AFTER THAT?:

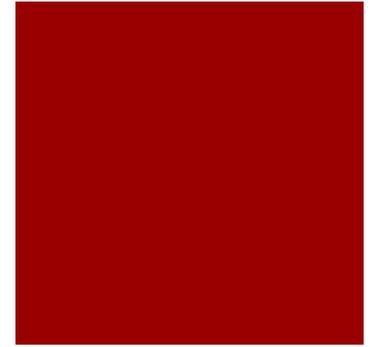
At the conclusion of the worship service, the Pastor will offer an opportunity for anyone to come forward and make their decisions public. In the Bible, everyone who made a decision for Christ let their decision be known to the whole church. So it is an important step. When you come forward, the Pastor will pray with you and then introduce you to the congregation, letting them welcome you into the fellowship of the church. You will not have to say anything, but when you come forward to stand publicly for Christ, your actions speak volumes!

# The Symbols of Salvation:

Baptism and the Lord's Supper



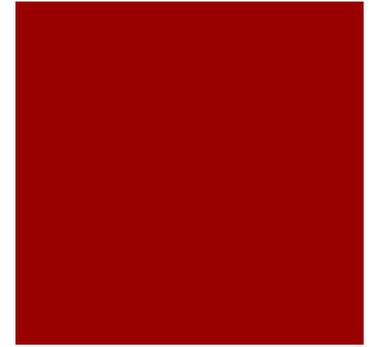
# About Baptism



Although all Christian churches practice baptism, the method varies between churches. Here are some common questions and answers related to baptism:

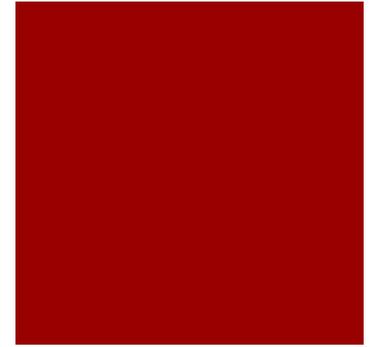
- ***Why should I be baptized?***
  1. To follow the example set by Jesus.
    - *“At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9)*

# Why Should I Be Baptized?



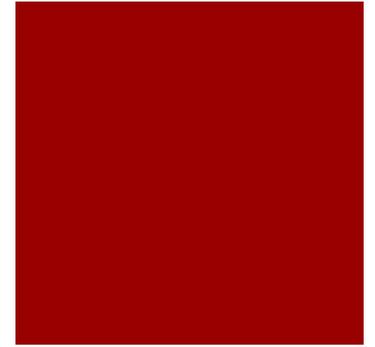
2. Because Christ commands it.
  - *Jesus said, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)*
  
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.
  - *" . . . and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)*
  - *"We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)*

# About Baptism

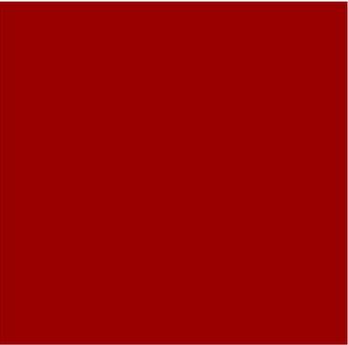


- *What is the meaning of baptism?*
- 1. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.
  - *"Christ died for our sins . . . He was buried . . . and He rose again."* (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
  - *". . . having been buried with him in baptism, and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead."* (Colossians 2:12).

# What Is the Meaning of Baptism?



2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.
  - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor. 5:17)*
  - *“We were therefore buried with Him in baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new life**.” ( Rom. 6:4).*

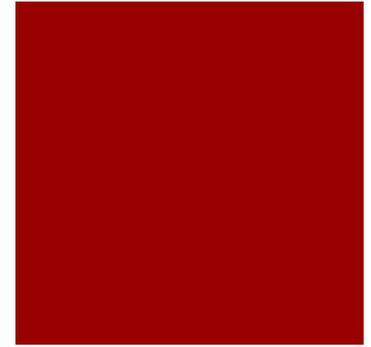


# What Is the Meaning of Baptism?



Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that you already believe! Baptism does not “save” you. Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment that you made in your heart.

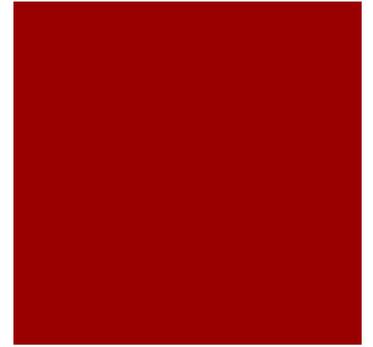
# About Baptism



## ■ *Why should I be baptized by immersion?*

1. Because Jesus Christ was baptized that way.
  - *“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.”* (Matt. 3:16).
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.
  - *“ . . . then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water . . .”* (Acts 8:38-39)

# Why Should I Be Baptized By Immersion?



- 3 The Greek word "baptize" means to immerse or dip under water.
- 4 It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

# Founders of various denominations agree:

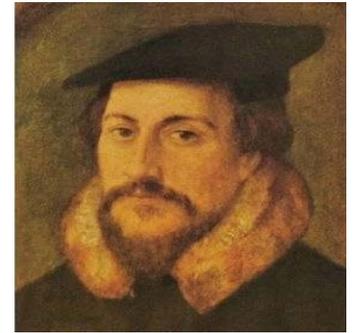


I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

**Martin Luther**

"The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

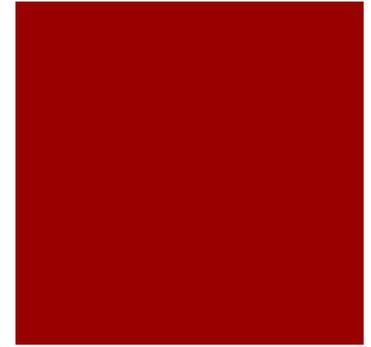
**John Calvin**



" 'Buried with Him' alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

**John Wesley**

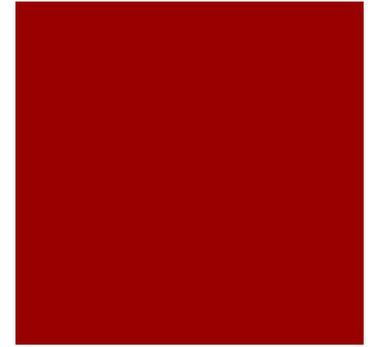
# About Baptism



## ■ *Who should be baptized?*

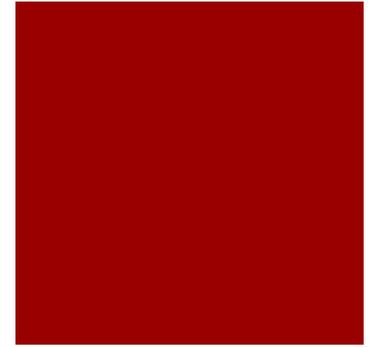
1. Every person who has believed in Christ!
  - *“Those who accepted his message were baptized . . .” (Acts 2:41).*
  - *“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized.” (Acts 8:12-13)*

# About Baptism



- *What about children?*
- At FBCS, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.
- At FBCS, as a membership requirement, every member must be or have already been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though we may have been “confirmed” as children.

# About Baptism



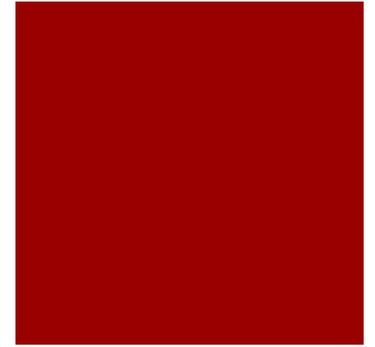
- *When should I be baptized?*
- Right away!
  - *“As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water! What would keep me from being baptized?” And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37-38)*
- There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have committed your life to Christ, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect” you’ll never feel “good enough”!

# About Baptism



- *Can my family be baptized together?*
- YES!
  - *“Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. . . . And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” (Acts 10:24, 48).*
- If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage family members to be baptized at the same time.

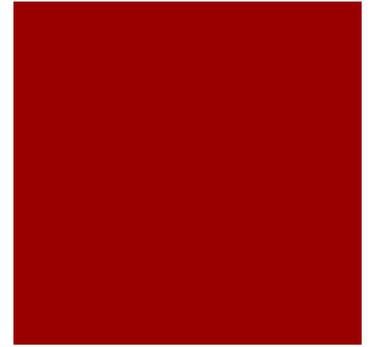
# About Baptism



- *If I have already been baptized, can I be baptized again?*
- Since baptism is a declaration of your salvation, you should only be baptized one time, after you commit your life to Christ.
- However, there are exceptions.
  - For instance, sometimes a person realizes that their first baptism did not follow a legitimate salvation experience, and now they have received Christ. In that case, a second baptism is appropriate.

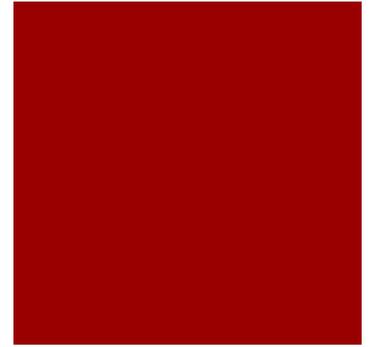
# About Baptism

- *What should I wear when I am baptized?*
- Dress comfortably, but respectfully.
- In the present facility at First Baptist Church, you will be walking in “full view” of the entire congregation, so keep that in mind.



# About Baptism

- *Will I have to say anything?*
- No.
- At the beginning of the service, the Pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism.
- You will wait for your turn to be baptized.
- When you are baptized, the Pastor will briefly lower you just below the water. Then you can leave the baptistry and dry off.



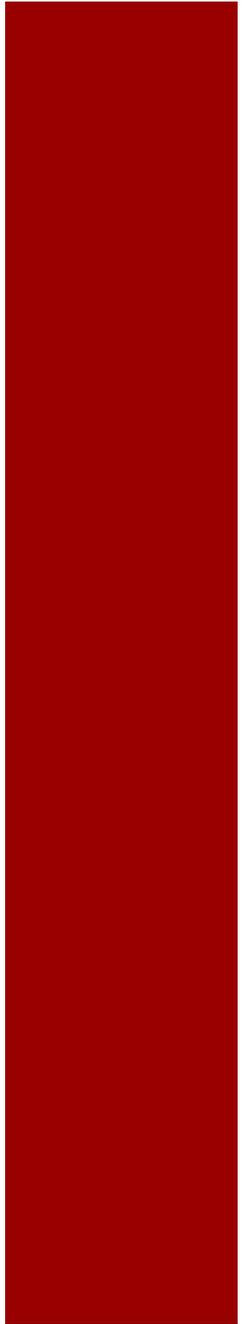
# About Baptism

- *Can I invite friends?*
- Yes!
- This is one of the most important events of your life, and a great opportunity to know that your friends and family members hear the Gospel.
- So we strongly encourage you to invite your friends and family members to your baptism.

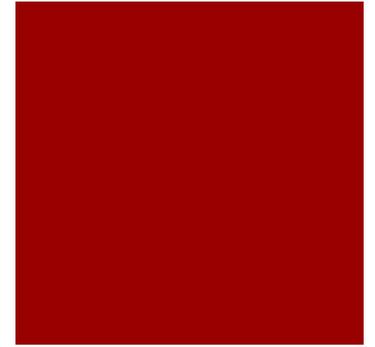


# The Symbols of Salvation:

Baptism and the Lord's Supper



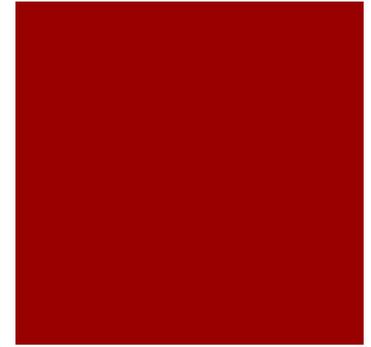
# About the Lord's Supper



The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. Here are some common questions and answers about the Lord's Supper:

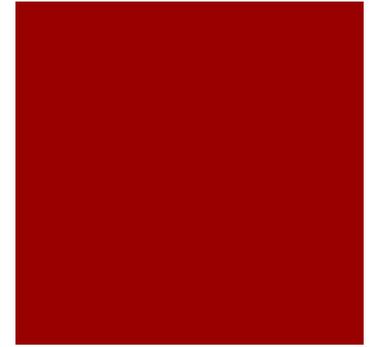
- ***What is the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor. 11:23-26)***
  1. It is a simple act, not an elaborate ceremony.
    - *"The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread . . ."* (v. 23)

# What Is the Lord's Supper?



2. It is a reminder of Christ's work.
  - *"... and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is broken for you: eat it in remembrance of me.'" (v. 24).*
  
3. It is a symbol.
  - *"In the same way, He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: drink it to remember me.'" (v. 25)*
  
4. It is a statement of faith.
  - *"For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back." (v. 26)*

# About the Lord's Supper

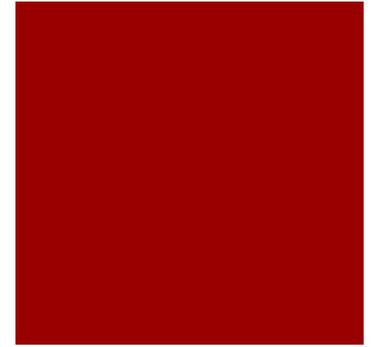


- *Who should take the Lord's Supper?*
- Only those who are already believers. (Mark 14:22-26).
  - *"For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgments upon himself." (1 Cor. 11:29)*

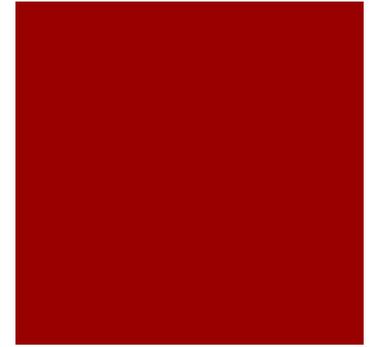
# About the Lord's Supper

- *How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?*

*"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Cor. 11:27-28).*



# About the Lord's Supper



## ■ *How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?*

Four actions to take in preparation:

1. Self-examination (1 Cor. 11:27)
2. Confession of sin (1 John 1:9)
3. Recommitment (Rom. 12:1)
4. Restoration of relationships (Matt. 5:23-24)

# About the Lord's Supper



- *When and how often should we participate in the Lord's Supper?*
- Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. He instituted it on a Thursday night.
- At FBCS, we observe the Lord's Supper each quarter, mostly on Sunday morning and sometimes on Sunday night.
- Also, the Lord's Supper is often observed at various other times during the year, such as retreats or special services.