

Article of Faith 8
Observance of the Ordinances of the Church

- Article of Faith #8 – Observance of the Ordinances of the Church
 - We believe that Jesus Christ who is the Head and Lawgiver has instituted the ordinance of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which are to be perpetually observed by the Church to the end of the world.

- 1. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church
 - Col. 1:18 – *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*
 - Eph. 5:23-24 – *“(23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”*
 - Eph. 1:22 – *“And hath put all things under his feet, and give him to be head over all things to the church,”*
 - Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:10,19; 1 Pet. 2:7

- 2. Jesus Christ is the only Lawgiver in the Church
 - Isaiah 33:22 – *“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”*
 - James 4:12 – *“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?”*

- 3. The church will be perpetuated until the end of the world
 - Matt. 28:20 – *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*
 - Matt. 16:18 – *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*
 - Eph. 3:21 – *“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

- 4. The church is the custodian of the ordinances that Jesus established (also see Matt. 28:18-20)
 - The apostles only had the authority to administer what Jesus had already commanded them, not to add to or take away from the commandment of Jesus Christ
 - Matt. 28:20 – *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*
 - 1 Cor. 11:23 – *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...”*
 - Now, it is the church’s responsibility to continue to administer the ordinances of the church in the exact manner that they have been delivered to the church by the Jesus Christ in the word of God (compare with 1 Cor. 11:23)
 - 1 Cor. 11:2 – *“Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I have delivered them to you.”*

Article of Faith 8
Observance of the Ordinances of the Church

4. The church is the custodian of the ordinances that Jesus established (cont'd)
 - The church is the pillar and ground of God's truth in the world
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 – *"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

5. The church is commanded to baptize professing believers until the end of the world
 - Matt. 28:18-20 – *"18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. 19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

6. While there is no prescribed frequency of how often we are to observe the Lord's Supper, Jesus has commanded for the Lord's Supper to be observed until Jesus Christ returns again
 - 1 Cor. 11:26 – *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

7. God established the Passover as a perpetual "ordinance" with Israel for them to "observe forever". Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Passover (1 Cor. 5:7), and now the church observes the ordinance of the Lord's Supper forever in remembrance of His Passover sacrifice
 - Exod. 12:24 – *"And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever."* (Exod. 12:43)
 - 1 Cor. 5:7 – *"...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"*
 - 1 Cor. 11:24-25 – *"24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."*