

The Why Behind our Worship:

Examining Liturgy and Ordinances in the Church

A Sunday Sessions Miniseries taught by Becca Ferguson

Week 2: Ordinances

Outline for Today's Class:

1. Why does understanding the ordinances that we practice, and understanding why we practice them the way that we do, matter?
2. What are “ordinances” as we understand them at CVC today?
 - a. Why do we use this word?
 - b. What’s the difference between “ordinance” and “sacrament?”
3. Our practice of the ordinances is shaped by both theological and practical considerations.
 - a. These are both important, but not equally so.
4. What can church history teach us about these ordinances?
 - a. A look at the practices of the early church
 - b. Analyzing changes during the Reformation
5. Considering our practice of the ordinances today at CVC (in light of all we’ve discussed in class)



Works Cited

- Institutes of the Christian Religion by Jean Calvin
- Luther's Works by Martin Luther; edited by Christopher Boyd Brown
- “The Meaning of Baptism in the Bible: Understanding Baptism as a Biblical Design Pattern” by Shara Drimalla & BibleProject Team (<https://bibleproject.com/articles/baptism-in-the-bible/>)
- “Why Is the Lord’s Supper Significant in the Bible?: Meals as a Pattern in Scripture” by Shara Drimalla & BibleProject Team (<https://bibleproject.com/articles/lords-supper-in-the-bible/>)
- Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries by Everett Ferguson
- What is the difference between ordinances and sacraments? by Got Questions (<https://www.gotquestions.org/ordinances-sacraments.html>)
- Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective by Andrew McGowan
- Liturgies of the Western Church by Bard Thompson

