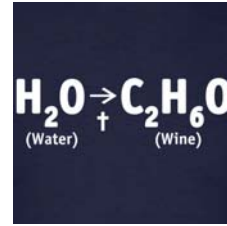




**WATER INTO WINE**  
 Jesus' First  
 Miraculous Sign  
 (= "semeion" in Greek).  
 Seven signs in John's  
 Gospel

"Signs" in John *produce belief*.  
 In the synoptic gospels belief  
*precedes "signs"* (miracles = "dunamis"  
 in Greek).

**1. MIRACLE OF NATURE**



Jesus' authority over the natural  
 world - to meet "natural" needs



6 stone water jars  
 used for  
ceremonial washing,  
 each holding  
 20 to 30 gallons.

Total:  
 120 - 180 gallons  
 = 900 bottles of  
 your favourite wine

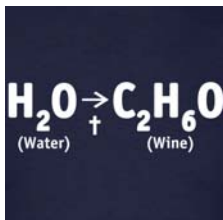


He gave everyone a  
 great time !

- Wine at the wedding
- Food for the 5,000
- Healing of the sick
- Humorous teaching

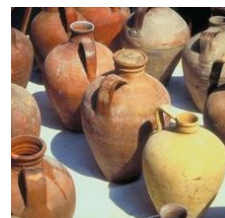
**BUT HE WAS ALSO POINTING TO  
 DEEPER THINGS**

**1. MIRACLE OF NATURE**



Jesus' authority over the natural  
 world - to meet "natural" needs

**2. JEWISH RITUAL REPLACED BY  
 GRACE THROUGH JESUS**



Water for ceremonial washing  
 replaced by spiritual power and life  
 through the blood of Christ

# RELIGION IS MAN'S WAY OF WORKING A PASSAGE TO HEAVEN

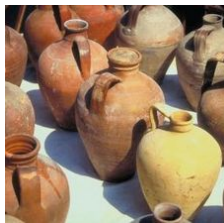


Ceremonial washing

Is your faith

- all about ritual
- outward observance
- belonging to a church

## 2. JEWISH RITUAL REPLACED BY GRACE THROUGH JESUS



Water for ceremonial washing  
replaced by spiritual power and life  
through the blood of Christ

## 3. INSIPID FAITH REPLACED BY INTOXICATING CREATIVITY



Christian life should mean abundance,  
exuberance, spontaneity and joy



- Are you locked into
- boring drudgery?
  - duty-led faith?
  - spiritual staleness?
  - inherited patterns?
  - creative inhibition?

*OR.....*



Are you drinking the new wine  
of the kingdom?

**3. INSIPID FAITH REPLACED BY  
INTOXICATING CREATIVITY**



**Christian life should mean abundance,  
exuberance, spontaneity and joy**