

# The Purpose of the Sacraments

**Text:** And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "*This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.*" (Luke 22:19)

**Question 67:** Are both the word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?

**Answer:** *Yes indeed!* The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel and confirms by the holy sacraments that our entire salvation rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.

**Question 68:** How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

**Answer:** Two, holy baptism and the holy supper.

**Intro:** Faith born; faith growing; faith confirmed

## I. Preaching Christ

## II. The Sacraments

Baptized into Christ:

- For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? (Romans 6:3)
- For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

Dining with Christ:

Jesus' desire

Jesus' transition

Jesus' exhortation

## Application 1: Celebrating Passover

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. (Colossians 2:16-17)

## Application 2: For the Weak

Q. 172. *May one who doubteth of his being in Christ or of his due preparation come to the Lord's supper?*  
A. One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labor to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened. --Westminster Larger Catechism

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; (2 Corinthians 9:8)

This paper may fall into the hands of some who ought to know something of growth in grace, but at present know nothing at all. They have made little or no progress since they were first converted. They seem to have "settled on their lees." (Zeph 1:12) They go on from year to year content with old grace, old experience, old knowledge, old faith, old measure of attainment, old religious expressions, old set phrases. Like the Gibeonites, their bread is always moldy, and their shoes are patched and clouted. They never appear to get on. Are you one of these people? If you are, you are living far below your privileges and responsibilities. It is high time to examine yourself. --Ryle

## Application 3: Looking Forward

"Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)