

**Intro:**

“Sacrament” from Latin word representing Greek, *mysterion*: a sacred, spiritual bond. READ WLC Q&A 161.

Main Point of Text: Paul says the Spirit expresses in the Sacraments that all Christians, even opposites, are now one.

Sermon Point: *The Spirit Unites Us in Christ’s Sacraments.*

**Move 1: *The Sacraments simply communicate to you through your senses.***

LC: “not by any power in themselves”:

- No *ex opera operato* [operation performed] of RCC. Action not independent of faith’s reception.
- 1 Peter 3:21: baptism is a “figure”. A sign corresponding to reality. Points to/illustrates meaning.
- WCF 27:1. Rom. 4:11: Abraham received “sign of circumcision, as a seal of the righteousness of faith”

**Move 2: *The Sacraments do not depend on people to communicate effectually.***

LC: “not by ... any virtue derived from the piety or intention of him by whom they are administered”:

- No *ex opera operato* of RCC. Priest’s intention don’t invalidate faith’s reception.
- Thus, WCF 28:7: The sacrament of Baptism is but once to be administered unto any person.
- 1 Cor 3:6-7: ... neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

**Move 3: *The Sacraments are effective because Jesus Christ designed them to be so.***

LC: “only by ... the blessing of Christ, by whom they are instituted”:

- Mt. 28:19: ... *teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*
- 1 Cor. 11:23-25: *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you ... Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me ... This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*
- *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.* (1 Cor. 11:26)

**Move 4: *The Holy Spirit really applies what Christ prescribes, and joins you together in it.***

LC: “only by the working of the Holy Ghost”:

- WLC 154: outward means whereby Christ “communicates” benefits of mediation. Conveys.
- Message is oneness in Christ. No more sinful division of humanity: 1 Corinthians 12:13:
  - “one”: baptism, spirit, drink. Sacraments communicate life, and body life, which is unified.
  - Jews/Greeks, slaves/free: those normally polarized are brought together.
  - Baptism/drink: actions expressed actuality. Spirit works through the Sacraments.

**Conclusion:**

*The Spirit Unites Us in Christ’s Sacraments.*