

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 162.

Main Point of Text: God takes His saints out of the world and identifies them as Kingdom citizens by the sacraments.

Sermon Point: *The Sacraments Say Who You Are.*

Move 1: *Jesus says you must participate in His sacraments.*

LC: “A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church” (161: so effectual):

- “in his church ... those within the covenant of grace”. Visible Church membership/benefits.
- Admission: circumcision (Gen. 17) / baptism (Mt. 28:19). Continuance: Passover (Ex. 12) / L.S. (Mt. 26:26-28).
- Christ still has His membership requirements and benefits. OT sacraments were to be perpetual. So Christ takes away the bloody sacrifices by His own blood, and continues them in their fuller meaning. Rom. 15:8: Christ is “the minister of circumcision.” 1 Cor. 5:7: Christ is “our Passover”.

Move 2: *Jesus designed the sacraments to feed your faith.*

LC: “to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces”: Answers not just, “What is”, but “What is their purpose?” *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ ... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* (Gal. 3:29).

Move 3: *For the sacraments are to nourish you to serve the Lord Jesus well.*

LC: “to oblige them to obedience”: *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* (Rom. 6:3-4) Sacraments communicate your union in/communion with Christ your King. Ps. 116: take cup, pay vows w/in congregation. For, *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.* (1 Cor. 10:21)

Move 4: *The sacraments communicate, confer, and confirm you in and as Christ's.*

LC: “to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace”:

- ... *[Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness ...* (Rom. 4:11).
- 1 Cor. 11:24-25: Eat/drink the bread/cup of wine in remembrance of Me (Christ's body/blood sacrifice).

- Signify: T. Ridgeley: *signum significans* (objective, what it means, physical symbol).
- Seal: T. Ridgeley: *signum confirmans* (subjective, what it pledges, spiritual guarantee).
- Exhibit: Ridgeley: older English word: “apply”. Vos concurs, points to SC 92, “applied”.
- 1 Cor. 10:16.

Move 5: The sacraments speak of your exclusive identity in and with Christ to everyone.

LC: “to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another”: *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.* (1 Cor. 12:13)

LC: “and to distinguish them from those that are without”. Ephesians 2:11-12:

- Figure of speech, metonymy: “change of name”. Here, people represented by sacramental sign.
- “Uncircumcision”: means Gentiles, those not marked w/ covenant sign of membership. Thus: without Christ, no citizenship in Israel (God’s kingdom) and her covenant promises, have no hope, without God (ἄθεοι, atheist) in the world. No formal visible identity/ownership of/by King Jesus.
- “Circumcision” meant the opposite of all those things. Positively, “being in”. Shown by signs.

Conclusion:

The Sacraments Say Who You Are.