

On the Sacraments

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 27

Lesson Plan (Chapter 27)

1a. What are sacraments?

1b. Why do we need sacraments?

2. What is in a sacrament?

3a. How do sacraments (not) work?

3b. How do sacraments work?

4a. What sacraments has Christ instituted?

4b. Who may administer the sacrament?

5. How do the OT and NT sacraments relate?

The Word “Sacrament”



What are Sacraments?

1. Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God...

- A. Signs and Seals
- B. Of the Covenant
- C. Instituted by God



Why Do We Need Sacraments?

... to represent Christ and His benefits; and to confirm our interest in Him: as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the Church and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to His Word.

- A. Primary Uses (Represent & Confirm)
 - B. Secondary Use (Differentiate)
 - C. Tertiary Use (Engage)
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What is in a Sacrament

2. There is, in every sacrament, a spiritual relation, or sacramental union, between the sign and the thing signified: whence it comes to pass, that the names and effects of the one are attributed to the other.

A. The Two Parts (Sign and Reality)

B. What is the connection between these?

How Do Sacraments (Not) Work?

3. The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that doth administer it

A. Not by their own working

B. Not by the administrator

How Do Sacraments Work?

... but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution, which contains, together with a precept authorizing the use thereof, a promise of benefit to worthy receivers.

- A. The Holy Spirit
 - B. The Word
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What Sacraments has Christ Instituted?

4. There be only two sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord ...

A. Only Two (Not Seven)

B. Ordained by Christ (Not the Church)

What Sacraments has Christ Instituted?

... neither of which may be dispensed by any, but by a minister of the Word lawfully ordained.

- A. Not by ...
 - B. Only by...
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What is the Relationship Between Sacraments?

5. The sacraments of the old testament in regard of the spiritual things thereby signified and exhibited, were, for substance, the same with those of the new.

Lesson Review

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Coming Soon

- ❖ *Of Baptism*
- ❖ *Of the Lord's Supper*
- ❖ *Of Church Censures*
- ❖ *Of Synods and Councils*
- ❖ *Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead*
- ❖ *Of the Last Judgment*

Next Week ...

