

1 Corinthians 10:14-21

Sec 1. “Sacraments are holy signs & seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ, & His benefits; and to confirm our interest in Him...”

A. What is a sign?

1. A sign is something that represents a truth or reality greater than itself. In other words, the sacraments are signs that “represent Christ, & His benefits.”
 - a. In baptism, the water represents how the blood of Christ has washed away our sin. WSC 94 says that baptism “doth signify & seal our ingrafting into Christ, & partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, & our engagement to be the Lord's.”
 - b. The bread in the Lord’s Supper represents the body of Christ which was given for those who partake in faith.¹
 - c. The wine in the Lord’s Supper represents the sacrificial blood of Christ **“poured out for you”** Jesus says it **“is the new covenant in My blood” (Lu 22:20).**
 - d. **1 Cor 10:16** tells us what the elements of the Lord’s Supper represent as signs: **“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?”**
2. There are many signs found in Scripture; however, baptism & the Lord’s Supper are the only sacramental signs because there are only 2 sacraments.

B. What are seals?

1. Seal is used to validate something as authentic. Here a few examples:
 - a. A document with a wax seal was imprinted by a ruler’s signet ring. This is similar to the imprint given by a notary public when he or she validates a document.
 - b. When you go to the gas station in Louisiana, a state official places a sticker seal on the pump to validate it as giving gas according to the advertised octane level.
2. Baptism acts as a seal because we can go back and validate, “I belong to God because I bear the seal of my Triune God; I have been baptized in **“the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit” (Mat 28:19).**
3. Our participation in the Lord’s Supper acts as a seal to validate or “confirm our interest in Him (Christ).”
 - a. To have the intimate fellowship to sit & partake of the Holy Supper confirms that “the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment & growth in grace.” (WSC 96).
 - b. Those placed under church discipline & excluded from the Lord’s Table should question their interest in Him. This exclusion from the Supper should make a person question his or her spiritual standing in Christ.

¹ Christ never says that His body was broken for us. He broke the bread and said it represents His body given for us.

Sec 1 goes on to teach that the sacraments “put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church, & the rest of the world & solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his Word.”

A. Jesus said in **Mat 12:30**: “**He who is not with Me is against Me; & he who does not gather with Me scatters.**”

1. I saw in a documentary about Haiti that there are some who are members of the Roman Catholic Church yet also participate in voodoo rituals.
 - a. As sec 1 says above, where is the “visible difference between those that belong unto the church, & the rest of the world”?
 - b. →Look again at **1 Cor 10:20-22**.
2. You are either for Him or against Him.

B. Baptism in Christ & participation in the Lord’s Supper means that you cannot legitimately live any way that you want and call yourself a Christian. Your participation in these sacraments means that there is a “visible difference between [you who] belong unto the church, & the rest of the world.” Your calling in Christ is to solemnly engage “in the service of God in Christ, according to his Word.”

1. → **Rom 6:3-4**

2. → **Gal 3:22-29**

3. **2 Cor 5:14-15**: “**For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**”

4. Our monthly participation in the Lord’s Supper should help us to guard ourselves against immorality. Each time we partake, be reminded that “**...you are not your own. For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body**” (**1 Cor 6:19-20**).