

The Sacraments



The Sacraments in General

- Why does God choose to use matter as a vehicle of grace?
 1. It's more fitting for our human nature.
 2. It gives us certainty of receiving grace.
- 2 Kings 5:9-14 Elisha required Naaman the Syrian to wash in the Jordan seven times.
- John 9:6-7 Jesus spat on the ground, made mud, put mud on the blind man's eyes, and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam.

What Constitutes a Sacrament?

- outward sign
- that gives grace
- instituted by Christ

Baptism

- Matt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
- John 3:2-5 Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Baptism

- Acts 2:37-39 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 16:25-33 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one’s fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” And he called for lights and rushed in,

and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family.

- But what about infant baptism? Shouldn't the recipients of baptism be adults? (handout)
- What about babies who die without baptism?
ITC April 19, 2007 – “The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized”

Confession

- Baruch 1:13-22 confession to the priest Jehoiakim
- Lev. 19:20-22 mediation of priest was necessary
- Matt. 16:19 “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.”
- Matt. 18:18 same authority extended to Church as a body (not just Peter)
- John 20:22-23 He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (implies hearing the sins first)

Confession

- James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (If confession to each other is recommended, why wouldn't confession to a priest be included in that?)
- 2 Cor. 5:16-21 the ministry of reconciliation

Confirmation

- Jn. 16:7 “But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”
- Jn. 7:38-39 “Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’” (Ez. 47) He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it hadn’t yet fallen upon any of them;

Confirmation

they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.

- Acts 19:1-6 St. Paul confirms in Ephesus
- Eph. 1:11-14 sealed with the Spirit
- Heb. 6:1-3 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Matrimony

- Song of Songs, Ch. 1-4 an exaltation of human love
- Gen. 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. Gen. 5:1-2 An image of the Trinity.
- Same-sex marriage (video clip)
- Jn. 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana. Christ's first miracle raises marriage to the level of a sacrament.
- CCC 1613 On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.

Matrimony

- Matt. 19:3-9 Christ takes a human institution and gives it a divine stamp of approval, along with the character of indissolubility.
- Eph. 5:25-32 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ

Matrimony

does the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

- Rev. 19:5-9 The Wedding Feast of the Lamb
- homosexuality (video clip)
- Some key points: 1) feelings are not sins, therefore same-sex attraction is not sinful; 2) all Catholics are called to chastity, not only homosexuals; 3) don't avoid having gay friends, because they need to know they are loved and accepted as human beings

Holy Orders

- Jn. 17:6-19 Christ consecrates the apostles to his service.
- Lk. 22:14-20 Christ commands the apostles to celebrate the Eucharist, thus making them priests.
- “If anyone shall say that by the words ‘Do this in commemoration of me’ Christ did not institute the apostles priests, or did not ordain that they and other priests should offer his body and blood, let him be anathema.” (Council of Trent)
- The Letter to the Hebrews is all about Christ as High Priest, like Aaron and Melchizedek. If Christ is a priest and chose followers to carry on his mission, why WOULDN'T he make them priests?

Holy Orders

- Heb. 4:14-16; 5:1-10; 7 (all); 8:1-6; 9:11-15
- Acts 6:3-6 “Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.

Holy Orders

- Acts 13:2-3 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.
- 1 Tim 4:14 “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was conferred on you through the prophetic word with the imposition of hands of the presbyterate.”
- Why doesn't the Church ordain women? (handout)

Anointing of the Sick

- Mark 6:13 They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.
- Mark 16:17-18 “These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
- James 5:14-15 “Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.”