

Women's Thursday Bible Class - Larger Catechism - 2021 #7 Lesson

Still covering means of grace but new topic - the Sacraments
Review what we mean by " means"

Q. And A. 161 - how effectual?

The Presbyterian Standards reject the Roman Catholic view of the **efficacy** of the sacraments. So what does the RCC teach?

~ unless grace is positively resisted, the one who receives the sacrament, receives the grace automatically. So emphasis on the outward observance and physical participation by person

~ Faith is not necessary (can be ignorant, even unconscious)

I.e. The sacrament works of itself

Acts 8:13,23

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We may have ignorant, mistaken and and scriptural views of the sacraments ourselves. Discuss

But WLC is clear on that the sacraments have no power in themselves, and the godliness, character, etc. or intention of the minister does not determine the efficacy of the sacraments.

Overarching truth: it is the divine power of God working through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who brings the blessing of Christ

Q. And A. 162 - definition of sacrament

- holy ordinance
- Instituted by Christ
- To **signify**
- To **seal**
- To **exhibit**to those within the visible church the benefits of Christ
- To strengthen and increase
- To oblige them to obedience
- To testify of communion with one another
- To distinguish believers from world

For what body of people did Christ institute the sacraments?

Read Vos p. 465

Problem in our day with sloppy views of church membership.

Signify-

Seal-

exhibit -

Gen. 17:7 and Exodus 12

Mat. 28: 19 and 26:26-28

Rom. 4:11-12 and I Cor. 11:24-25;; 20,23 (disunity)

Gal. 3:16, 27

I Cor 10:16,21

Q. and A. 163 - parts of a sacrament

What is meant by "outward and sensible sign"?

What is meant by " inward and spiritual grace "?

What is the connection between the outward and inward?

Read the Westminster Confession of Faith 27.2

Q. and A. 164 - how many sacraments?

Mat.28:19.

Mat. 26:26-28.

The RCC has 7.

These Q. and A. are the general frame work for understanding the sacraments.

Q. and A. 165 - What is baptism?

What **action** constitutes baptism?

What is proper **mode of baptism**?

Interesting historical note-

- instituted by Christ
- Sign and seal of union with Christ
- Represents remission of sin
- Represents regeneration
- Represents adoption
- Stands for resurrection
- Formal rite of initiation into visible church
- Open promise to be the Lord's

Gal. 2:26-27

Titus 3:4-5

Rom. 6:3-5

Q.and A. 166- who is to be baptized?

What are your questions regarding **infant baptism**?

Please on your own read and contemplate the answer to Q. # 167.

Next week: our lofty goal will be to get through Q.and A. 177.

Study ahead as the sacrament of the Lord's supper is unpacked.