

## Women 's Thursday Bible Class- Larger Catechism-2021 #8 Lesson

Structure of Lesson #7 review

What is meant by saying that sacraments are visible preaching?( Word) as compared to written Word  
Continuing with Baptism

Is the efficacy of baptism limited to the time at which it is administered? Vos- P. 480

Just like preaching the Word ( means of grace) often bears fruit later I Pet. 3:21

How does baptism " save you"? Baptism outwardly symbolizes Union with Christ !

See the close connection between the sign and the grace signified! Spoken of same!!!!

Q.and A. 167 - what mean to "improve"?

- Much neglected duty- if then, how much more so I our day and culture!

-All lifelong

-Serious and thankful consideration of the meaning and benefits

-Humbled by our failure to live up to these privileges and benefits

-Serious effort to trust Christ fully and lead a holy life

-Involves a renewed realization of the unity we share with each other, therefore our duty to cultivate love for one another

This same concept of using a sacrament for practical good purposes, experiencing its true meaning and working out its implications applies to the detailed Q. And A. 170-175 regarding partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Read all Q.and A. 168-176! Whew!

Q.and A. 168 - what is the Lord's Supper?

Luke 22:17-20

Mat. 26:26-28

I Cor. 11: 17-34, some selected

I Cor. 10:14-17

Sacramental elements - bread and wine

Sacramental actions by the minister- 4 ( taking, blessing, breaking, giving)

By the people-2 ( taking, eating and drinking)

To change or omit any is serious error. Christ is the Head of the Church.

What is the end or purpose of the Lord's Supper? In short the spiritual edification of the Lord's people , pointing back to Calvary - and pointing forward the the Last Day

Phrase " worthily communicate"

In what manner is Christ present? Probably the crux of the stormy controversies that existed in the Reformation

1. Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation - physical - sacrifice repeated, idolatry

1. Lutheran doctrine of consubstantiation- mystical, " in, with, and under"

1. Historic Reformed doctrine - spiritual - deep spiritual communion with Risen Christ whereby we feed on Him

Means of grace

1. Mere memorial -

So Catechism goes into depth on how to prepare, how to partake and also how to benefit after.

- by examining self 171
- With reverence and attention, wait on God
- Heedfully discern the Lord's body

- Affectionately meditate, sorrow for sin
- Feed upon Christ by faith, trusting
- Renewing covenant with God and love for all the saints
- Reflecting afterward of benefit experienced or not

Should lack of assurance keep someone from partaking?

Who should be kept from the Lord's Table?

Unconverted, or ignorant and scandalous

Church discipline

What is open, closed, and restricted communion ?

Comparing the sacraments as to how they agree and how they differ:

Both baptism and the Lord's Supper are authored by God, the spiritual part being Christ and his benefits, seals of same covenant, dispensed by minister only, and continued till Christ's second coming

Baptism administered only once, by water signifying Union with Christ.

The Lord's Supper administered repeatedly, with elements of bread and wine, to represent spiritual nourishment to soul, to confirm our growth; only given to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves

Next week: We may have to tie ends up on today's lesson. Would you please email or text me any questions in your mind regarding the Sacraments. Then we will begin with Q. And A. 178 on our beginning lesson on the means of grace of Prayer.

Some questions that might be raised:

What circumstances such as time, place, frequency, vary without changing or interfering with the essential character of the Lord supper? ( Vos, p. 483)

Why does the catechism say that the sacraments can only be administered by a minister?( Vos, p. 486)