

What is a Lutheran Part VIII - The Sacraments

“We need to talk”

- 1) What is the Gospel?
 - how is this different from gospel?
 - What is meant when used as an adjective? (e.g. “gospel truth”)
 - How does this Gospel come to us?

- 2) What are some things only a pastor (ordained clergy) can / should do?
 - see I Corinthians 4:1
 - What are “the mysteries of God?”
 - What does it mean to be a steward?

- 3) If there is baptism in cases of emergency, why is there no similar provision for the Lord’s Supper (or Confession & Absolution)?

VIII. An overview of the Sacraments

A) What is a sacrament?

- 1) Meaning of the word
 - “sacra” (sacred / holy) +
 - “mentos” (action)

- 2) Who is doing the action in a Sacrament?

- 3) See I Corinthians 1:28. Why would God use such common things?

- 4) What makes something a Sacrament? (Augustinian definition)

- 5) How many Sacraments are there?

- 6) Which one is often called “THE Sacrament”? why?

- 7) How are the sacraments to be used rightly?

B) The Nature of Baptism

- 1) What is baptism?

- 2) Where are we commanded to be baptized?

- 3) Can one be saved without baptism?

- 4) What does it mean to have a surname (sir’s name) / family name?

- 5) How is this like / unlike God putting His name on us in baptism?

- 6) Why should / shouldn’t babies be baptized?

- 7) What is always to be connected with baptism?

C) The Blessings of Baptism

1) What three things does baptism do / give?

2) How does baptism work forgiveness of sins? (Acts 2:38)

3) How does baptism rescue from death and devil (Romans 6:3-5)

4) How does baptism give salvation? (I Peter 3:21)

5) If Jesus has already paid for all my sins, rescued me from death and the devil, and won my salvation, why do I need to be baptized?

6) What blessings do you receive because you're "part of the family"?
- Is God making us "an offer he can't refuse"?

7) Can one lose these blessing of baptism and be eternally condemned?

D) The power of baptism

1) Why is baptism called a "birth" or a "rebirth"?

2) Does this mean all the baptized are "Born Again Christians"?
- see John 3:3-6

3) What is the most critical element in Holy Baptism?
- see Titus 3:5-8

4) What is the role of faith in baptism?

5) If the Holy Spirit creates faith through baptism, do we need what is created through baptism to receive the power and benefits of baptism? (kind of a chicken or egg argument)

- Think like a Hebrew, not a Greek

6) What is a "believer's baptism"?

7) What is meant in the Nicene Creed by "one baptism"?

E) What baptism indicates. (practical applications)

1) What difference does your baptism make in day to day living?

2) How do people try to "reinvent" themselves today?

3) How is the "Old Adam" in us to die daily?

4) Does remembrance of baptism = II Corinthians 5:17?

5) Why doesn't this "Old Adam" stay dead / drowned (good swimmer)?

6) Look at Colossians 3:1-10. How is this a picture of the new life?

7) How do we remember our baptisms on a regular basis?

F) A few other thoughts about baptism

- 1) How is baptism misused / misunderstood by many today?
- 2) What are the ways one can be baptized? Is one way better?
- 3) What is a “godparent”? What are the ramifications?
- 4) How is “sponsor” different from “godparent”?
- 5) Why should sponsors be of the same faith tradition as the baptized?
- 6) What is the rite of confirmation? What is being confirmed?
- 7) Look at Hebrews 10:26. If we sin (willfully in a “gross” sin) do we need to be baptized again upon repentance? Why / why not?

G) Confession and Absolution

- 1) Why do we call this “The Office of the Keys”
 - See Matthew 18:18
 - See Matthew 16:19
- 2) What is meant by “apostolic succession”?
- 3) What are the two parts of Confession?
- 4) Look at John 20:23. Who was the Office of the Keys given to?
- 5) Why did the Church decide to give this Office to the pastor?
- 6) What is sin?
 - can something be “bad” but not be a sin?
 - can something be “good” yet be sinful?
 - so what do we confess?
- 7) The Church (LCMS) does not *mandate* individual confession and absolution, but it *retained* the rite. Should we hold on to individual confession and absolution? Why / why not?

H) The nature of the Sacrament of the Altar

- 1) How is this sacrament a “litmus test” for a Church or congregation?
- 2) What are some other names for the Sacrament of the Altar

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- 3) How do we know Christ isn’t being metaphorical about this?
- 4) How does the warning of I Corinthians 11:27-29 make this clear?
- 5) What do we call the erroneous teaching that the bread and wine disappear leaving only Christ’s body and blood?
- 6) What are we to remember when partaking of the Lord’s Supper?

7) List the three reasons why we should take the Eucharist as often as it is offered.

I) Benefits of the Sacrament of the Altar

- 1) How is Communion a “multi-sensory worship experience”?
- 2) What is the chief blessing of the Lord’s Supper?
- 3) Look at Leviticus 17:10-12. How can blood purify from sin?
- 4) Why do we need Jesus’ blood? (see John 6:53-56)
- 5) What other two blessings always accompany forgiveness of sins?

- 6) How does the Breaking of Bread strengthen against temptation?
- 7) What statement of faith do we make at the Lord’s Table?

J) The power of the Sacrament of the Altar

- 1) Translate the Latin heresy “ex opere operata” (still used of Mass)
- 2) Why would the Sacrament still be effective “even if the words were spoken by an unbeliever or a Turk” (AC X)
- 3) What else is needed to receive the benefits of this sacrament?

K) How to receive this sacrament worthily

- 1) Why would fasting be a good preparation for Holy Communion?
- 2) What other “bodily preparations” might there be?
- 3) In the words “given and shed for you” is “you” singular or plural?
- 4) How is one to “examine one’s self” before receiving Communion?
- 5) What is the main thing that makes one worthy or unworthy?
- 6) To whom should the Lord’s Supper *not* be given?

- 7) What happens to those who take the sacrament unworthily?
- see I Corinthians 11:30

L) Related teachings and practices

- 1) What is “intinction” and why is frowned upon by many?
- 2) Why is Confirmation considered a “Rite of passage”?
- 3) How does the LCMS “categorize” its membership?
- 4) What is excommunication and why is practiced?
- 5) What is the “lesser bann”?
- 6) Which is better practice; common or individual cups for Communion?
- 7) What is the “ideal frequency” for offering the Eucharist?
 - What’s the danger in offering it to often?
 - What’s the danger in not offering it enough?

Next Week: We’ll spend a little time with the Table of Duties (section 3) which will also wrap up our study of the Small Catechism.