

Sacraments

I. Introduction

1. Definition

"Religious Rites or ceremonies instituted or recognized by Jesus (Wallace)."

2. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

1) Prominent place in fellowship of the early church along with proclamation and teaching (Act 2:41-42; 10:47; 20:7-11).

2) Means appointed by Jesus Christ to bring members into communion with His death and resurrection.

A. Thus Christ Himself is present through the work of the Holy Spirit (Mat 28:19-20; Act 2:38; Rom 6:35; 1 Cor 11:23-27; Col 2:11-12).

B. Linked together with the Lord's teaching (Mk 10:38-29).

C. Communal element as one church (1 Cor 10:1-5)

3) Visual enactment of the Word proclaimed
: Significance must be understood as such.

A. Proclamation

a. Not mere recital of the events of Jesus Christ, But representation of these events to the hearers in the power of the Spirit.

b. Faith became related to their own life.

Once for all events continue to effect in the believers' everyday life (1 Cor 1:21; 2 Cor 5:18-19).

c. Gave us the mystery of the kingdom of God (Mat 13:1-23).

B. Preachers became a steward of this ministry (Eph 3:8-9).

Miracles and signs were accompanied with the preaching of the early church and with visible aspects of the power of God of which mystery of the kingdom of God was derived.

C. It is inevitable that the Baptism and the Lord's Supper should be interpreted that way. Mystery.

3. Meaning of the word, μυστήριον

1) Greek word, μυστήριον --->Transliterated "Sacramentum" in Latin

Latin "sacramentum": Set apart

Means of grace--->Convey grace in itself.
Catholic merit system

2) Augustine

Sacraments

: Outward visible sign of the inward spiritual grace.

Mystery of sacraments: Hidden things

Added her sacraments.

II. Baptism

1. Introduction

1) Meaning of the word

: Action of washing, plunging in the water.

2) Rite of Christian initiation in the early church

A. Beginning

: With John the Baptist

B. Authority

: Jesus gave authority for observance and precept (Mat 3:13; 28:19).

C. Preaching and confession of Christ was the intrinsic part of baptism.

Christ Himself = The true Minister of baptism
(Mat 3:11)

Christ committed the external ministry to His disciples.

3) Pattern

A. Simple action of going into water in the name of Christ or Trinity.

B. Practice

- a. Early church
: Immersion
- b. Reformers
: Immersion represents the death and resurrection
best.
- c. Anabaptists
: As long as the one being baptized are "under
water", it still represent the same. Pouring on the head or immersion.

2. Problem of the adult baptism and infant baptism

1) Infant Baptism

A. Alleged proof

a. New Testament

Acts 16:15 Lydia and her household
34 Philippians jailor and his household

1 Cor 1:16 Household of Stephens
7:14 Children were baptized with their parents.

b. Church Fathers

Polycarp's martyrdom: 86 years I served Him.
His age was counted since his infant baptism

Origen's Commentary to Romans

c. Proselyte in Judaism

B. Prevenient grace through infant baptism

a. Augustine, "Doctrine of original sin"

Infant must be baptized because of possibility of
early death and no salvation.

b. Alleged proof

Synoptic gospels: Jesus' relationship with children
Analogy to baptism

c. Oscar Cullmann

C. Reformed church

a. Covenant of Grace only

Abraham's covenant included family, physical and spiritual. Children share blessing on account of parent's faith.

b. Faith infused to infant.

Luke 1:41-44 Apparent response on the part of the baby

In view of coming faith for infants by hers.

2) Believers' baptism

A. Meaning

a. No effect of regeneration.

Regeneration only by grace

b. Significance of faith response to God

B. Pertinent Passages

Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal 3:26, 27; Col 2:12; 3:1-4; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Romans 6:1-15; 1 John 1:9; Ac 15:9; Gal 3:2; Eph 3:17

C. Significance of baptism

a. Public identification with the Christ

Early church

Still very important especially in many countries where Christianity is considered normal.

b. Expression of obedience

Implicit evidence of baptism in the New Testament

Quickness of baptism in the NT.

c. Fellowship of believers

d. Faith and commitment to the Christ

D. Presupposition in the New Testament

a. It is to be done only to believers with conscious faith. N
to infants.

Acts 10:44-48 Cornelius' household did n include children

Acts 11:14 Could n involve children
16:15

Acts 16:32-33
18:8 Believing

Salvation by faith alone.

3) Bromiley's conclusion

A. In either case, the baptism still continues.

B. Personal confession is important in all churches.

C. Dedication of infants is done in the churches which don't practice the infant baptism.

3. Clues to the meaning of the baptism

1) The Old Testament

A. Three ideas

a. Flood (1 Pet 3:20-21)
: Water- Death - Redemption

b. Red Sea (1 Cor 10:1-2): Same

c. Circumcision (Col 2:11-12)
: Covenantal side related to baptism

B. Common Elements

a. Related to the Divine Covenant.

b. Provisional fulfillment in the Divine judgment and grace.

c. Coming definite fulfillment of the Divine judgment and grace in the baptism of Cross.

2) The New Testament

A. Actions itself

a. Washing (Tit 3:5; 1 John 5:6-8)

Blood of Christ
Purifying action of the Holy Spirit

b. Initiation (John 3:5)

With idea of Adoption and regeneration
Emphasis on the action of the Holy Spirit based

upon the work of Christ.

c. Focus on baptism as death and resurrection (Rom 6:4)

True witness of the work of Christ
Death, resurrection, ascension

B. Preaching of baptism

a. Content

: Tells us that Christ died and risen in our places. -

Christ's action

b. Response

a) Preaching calls us to respond to Christ's word.
b) We respond in three ways to keep it constantly

before us:

1. Initial response of repentance and faith
(Gal 2:20)- Regeneration

2. Life-long process of mortification and
renewal (Eph 2:22-23) - Sanctification

3. Final dissolution and resurrection of our
bodies.- Glorification

4. Primary theme

: Christ's death and resurrection

1) When we forget the substitutionary work of Christ, baptism becomes:

A. Virtual denial of the grace baptism- Zwinglian

a. No grace apart from psychological effect.

b. Inexplicable religious term

B. Distorted exaggeration - Roman Catholic

a. Automatic confusion of mysterious miraculous effect without saving faith.

b. Regarded as awe, as a necessary action of salvation, as an ecclesiastical magic.

Salvation through sacrament.

2) Mistake of most Protestantism

Focus: God → man

A. Original nature

: Sacrament as a communal event of/given by God -

Grace

B. Protestant's focus on me

: Our understanding/commitment/worthiness

3) Right attitude

: Our response to the saving activity of God

When baptism is properly ministered, we have the following fruitful understanding:

A. When the external and true baptism of Christ happen together, baptism becomes the grace of the true reality.

B. When the external is ministered in inward operation of the Spirit, it becomes the grace of the internal work of the Holy Spirit.

C. The action itself is a Divinely ordained action.

a. Meaning in conjunction with the written Word.

b. Faith of the recipient

: It does n happen automatically.

5. Primary way of identity of a Christian in baptism

: Communal experience - The New Testament

Meaning of baptism interpreted in terms of the church.

1) New identity, status as a member of the believing community.

2) To/for me, n by me.

Subjective side

Objective side

3) Church's burden

A. Evangelism and ministering baptism are burden of the church, not of the recipients.

B. Baptism can never be the private affair.

C. Individualism is a problem.

III. The Lord's Supper

1. Theological understanding

: Biblically several ways

1) Sacrifice

A. The OT idea of peace offering.

: Not consumed by God, but eaten in fellowship of the priests and people.

B. Jesus' blood and body = Sacrifice to God

2) Ritual of the Covenant meal

A. The OT idea

: Animals killed for cutting the covenant.

B. Jesus' blood = New Covenant

3) Jewish Passover meal

A. The OT idea

Not only for remembering, but they lived the experience through celebrating the Passover.

B. Jesus = The true Paschal Lamb

Delivering the New Israel from the bondage of sin.

4) Messianic eschatological significance

A. The OT idea

: Look forward to future deliverance by the Messiah. A cup set aside for the Messiah.

B. Possibility that it was the cup Jesus took and used. By taking the cup, He was saying, "the Messiah is now here."

2. Climax of the table fellowship Jesus had with people
→ The disciples celebrated the Lord's Supper.

1) Real foretaste of the Messianic banquet

2) Sign of mystery of Jesus Christ's presence

Meaning the living presence of Jesus through the meal (Emmaus)

3. Three aspects of the Lord's Supper

1) Supper is eaten in the presence of Christ.

A. Christ = The Host

B. For us at the table, the relationship becomes reality through His saving events in the work of the Holy Spirit alone.

a. Supper

: Participation in the work of Christ and His kingdom (John 14).

b. He is there according to His promise to those who seek Him in faith.

2) Supper stimulates and enables us to offer Eucharistic sacrifice through the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:1).

Response to the work of Christ

3) Fulfill the function of the body of Christ in needs of the world (1 Cor 10).

A. Constant renewal of our covenant between God and His church.

B. Importance of the community

a. Unity

: Main thrust of the Lord's Supper.

b. Realization of the community

IV. Practical Elements

1. Baptism

1) Prepare the candidates.

A. Spiritually

Through reading prayer, meetings,..

B. Physically

What to wear, what to bring....

Extra change of clothes, towel....

Use of instruction paper

: Explain what will happen and practice together.

2) Prepare the facilities.

A. Baptismal facility

: Not too full, must be heated, environments in case of
outside,..

B. Change area.

3) Prepare yourself and your assisting elders.

: Clothing, go over the procedure in advance.

4) Prepare the sanctuary

A. Remove any objects blocking the view.

B. Adequate lighting

C. Microphone in case of testimony.

: Don't let them hold it.

5) Prepare the congregation.

A. Announcement

: Let them know when it's coming.

B. Encouragement

: Encourage them to come in the means of unity.

C. Visitors

a. Prepare them to look for the visitors.

b. Reception after baptism

6) Encourage family and friends to come.
: Invitation printed.

7) Content of the service
: Worship

A. Forms and orders
Music, hymns and praise....

B. Themes
: Focused on the death of Christ and its meaning to us.

a. Our commitment and Christian walk in Christ.

b. Appropriate theme of songs

c. Brief message on the meaning of baptism with family and
friends in mind.

d. Public testimony of the candidates

a) Central part of the worship.

b) Give some brief guidelines

Three points outline

1. Before you met the Christ

2. Circumstances how you came to know the
Christ.

3. Differences since you found the Christ.

e. The words of baptism

: Not "I", but "We" as a representative of the church.

8) Variation in an usual Sunday evening baptismal service.

A. Combined service

a. With her churches or cross-denominational line.

b. A good chance to feel the church unity.

B. Outdoor baptismal services

: Lake, pool....

Careful about the control of the environment.

C. Sunday morning baptismal services

: Nothing wrong.

- a. Effective to get the most of the congregation.
- b. One option

Easter Sunday (Early churches)
Pentecost Sunday

2. Communion

1) Prepare the elders.

A. Make sure to know what they are doing.

- a. Practice with them.
- b. Let them feel comfortable.

B. Instruction

- a. Tell them.
- b. Show them.
- c. Let them try with assistance step by step.
- d. Let them try without assistance.
- e. Let them do it and debrief afterward.

Debrief

- a) How did you feel?
 - b) Command them what they did well.
 - c) Give them a chance to critique themselves. How do you think you could do in different way?
 - d) Suggestions
- 3) Command them again.

C. Prevent noises.

2) Prepare the elements.

: Make sure that somebody is in charge. Individual persons and a backup person.

3) Prepare your people.

A. Announcement

: In advance.

B. Encourage them to prepare themselves.

a) Unity

b) Reconciliation with brothers and sisters before the

communion.

4) The content of the service.

A. Focus

: Death of the Christ

B. Communion as the center of the service

: Death and resurrection fits in any themes.

C. The communion words

: Try to use own words than Jesus' word

D. Brief Testimonies

: Following serving the elements.

E. Benevolent offerings

F. The words to visitors and parents

a. Who can take and who can't

b. Kids

: Parents need instruction when they will allow their

kids to partake the communion.

Normally not until they are baptized as believers.

G. Elements

a. Bread: Loaf of bread, Matzo, Pita bread....

b. Cup: Grape juice

Common cup is a problem.

H. Procedure

: Two ways

a. Elements passed up.

b. Kneeling at altar and receive.

I. Special Occasions

: Good time for communion.

Good Friday, Maunday Thursday, Good year's Eve....