



## GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

### 44 – The Sacraments

#### Announcements:

10/4 @6:30 -

Women's  
Bible Study

10/5 @7:00 -

Prayer

10/6 @6:30 -

Grace Group

10/9 @8:30 -

Sunday School

**ICE BREAKER:** Do you have any traditions that mean a lot to you? What and why?

*Westminster Shorter Catechism:*

*Question 93: Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?*

*A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.*

I would like to preface this entire GracePoint with this important thought: the topic of the sacraments is WAY too large to fit into one study, let alone one that fits on one page! To make sure we stay a bit more on target, we will be using a lot of words from people much smarter than myself, hopefully their wisdom can help us! But with that being said, there is much we can, and should talk about in regards to what they are, what we believe, and why they are important. First let's start with this: what is a sacrament? Again the WSC is helpful: *A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.* This is a wonderful definition, but it might leave us with one more question: What does that mean?

**DISCUSS:** Well, what does this definition of a sacrament mean? Which parts stick out to you?

Then now we can turn our attention to the sacraments in particular, namely Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Looking first to Baptism, here we will allow the statement of faith of the BFC to guide our discussion. *Water baptism, the immersion of the believer, is a visible testimony to the work of regeneration and a mark of identification and union with Christ. It has no saving or cleansing power, but it is the answer of a good conscience before God.* (Article 20-1). There is a lot here (it is as if, in writing things like articles of faith every word matters!) but I would like to hone in on one thought today: it is a *visible testimony to the work of regeneration.* Growing up and being baptized in a Baptist church meant that I often looked at Baptism as all about the one getting Baptized. It was *their* decision to show that *they* were following Christ and *they* wanted to let people know that, as the song says, *I have decided to follow Jesus!* In reality all of that is only half true. It is a public declaration, but of what *God* has done. It is a testimony, not of my goodness, or my ability to save myself, but of the work of God. It is for both the one being baptized and the ones watching a reminder that God is the one who saves, our only hope is to be hid in Christ!

**DISCUSS:** Why is it so important that we understand Baptism as a sign and testimony of the work of God? Is there any other part of the BFC's definition of Baptism that is impactful to you?

Finally we have the Lord's supper. Unlike the sacrament of Baptism, which is to be given once, this one is repeated over and over again. Again to steal from the BFC: *Those who worthily partake in this remembrance of Him feed upon Him to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, have their union and communion with Him confirmed, and testify and renew their thankfulness and commitment to God and their mutual love and fellowship each with the other as members of the same mystical body.* (Article 20-2). Communion is what gets us through each day and a part of our sanctification for today and tomorrow. It reminds us we are in Christ and it allows us to show our gratitude for his work. It is also something that draws us all together as his people. In fact, it is all this and more! What a beautiful gift we have in being able to come to the table of Communion!

**DISCUSS:** Which of these benefits speaks to you the most? Why? Which ones are we quick to forget?