



The Sacraments: Aren't everything & 'Not nothing'.

Discuss: *How would your Christian walk be impacted, if we never practised Baptism & the Lord's Supper again?*

Towards a definition of the Sacraments

Sacramentum (Latin) – pledge of allegiance

'An effectual sign of grace performed at Christ's behest' (Yarnold)

Sacraments are an enacted promise.

Article XXV - Of the Sacraments

Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in him.

'The Sacraments communicate, seal & confirm possession of Christ's grace & the blessings of his covenant. Receiving, we've the chance to express faith & allegiance to God' (Milne)

'As the preaching of the Word makes the gospel audible,
so the sacraments make it visible,
and God stirs up faith by both means' (JI Packer)

Given because God knows we are:

Embodied

Forgetful

Communal

Baptism

What aspect of the gospel does Baptism make visible?

Baptism is a public exhibition of Union with Christ.

Who is it for?

Baptism is for the church to declare who is in Union with Christ.

Article XXVII - Of Baptism

Baptism is not only a sign of profession, and mark of difference, whereby Christian men are discerned from others that be not christened, but is also a sign of Regeneration or new Birth, whereby, as by an instrument, they that receive Baptism rightly are grafted into the Church; the promises of the forgiveness of sin, and of our adoption to be the sons of God by the Holy Ghost, are visibly signed and sealed; Faith is confirmed, and Grace increased by virtue of prayer unto God. The Baptism of young Children is in any wise to be retained in the Church, as most agreeable with the institution of Christ.

How does it stir up faith?

Discussion: How has your faith been stirred & Christian walk blessed by the sacrament of baptism?

The Lord's Supper

What aspect of the gospel does the Lord's Supper make visible?

The Lord's Supper is the exhibition & expression of Communion with Christ.

Article XXVIII - Of the Lord's Supper

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another; but rather it is a Sacrament of our Redemption by Christ's death: insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith, receive the same, the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ.

Christ is present in his sacraments, just as he is present in His word when he works mightily through it in the hearts of the hearers. By this we do not mean that Christ is physically present in the voice or sound of the speaker (whose sound perishes as soon as the words are spoken). Instead, by this we mean that Christ works through His word, using the voice of the speaker, as his instrument. In the same way, he also uses his sacraments, by which he works, and therefore can be said to be present in them. (Cranmer)

Who is it for?

How does it stir up faith?

Discuss with the person next to you: How has your faith been stirred & Christian walk blessed by the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?