

WCF 27 - Of the Sacraments

Introductory Comments

A. Three Qualification

B. Two extremes to avoid

1. Sacerdotalism
2. Simplistic/Empty Subjectivism

Confession 27.1	Larger Catechism 162	Shorter Catechism 92
Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ, and his benefits; and to confirm our interest in him: as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to his Word.	A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation; to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another; and to distinguish them from those that are without.	A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied* to believers.

I. Definitions - 27.1

A. Nature

B. Origin

C. Key Terms

1. Sign
2. Seal
3. Represent
4. Exhibit

D. Functions

1. Confirmation
2. Representation
3. Distinction
4. Obligation

II. Sacramental Union - 27.2

A. Defined

B. Sign and Thing Signified

1. Distinction

2. Connection

C. Confusion

III. Sacramental Efficacy - 27.3

A. Negatively

B. Necessities

Confession 27.3	Larger Catechism 161	Shorter Catechism 91
The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that doth administer it: but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution, which contains, together with a precept authorizing the use thereof, a promise of benefit to worthy receivers.	Q. 161. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not by any power in themselves, or any virtue derived from the piety or intention of him by whom they are administered, but only by the working of the Holy Ghost, and the blessing of Christ, by whom they are instituted.	Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

1.

2.

3.

4.

IV. Legitimacy

A. In Kind

B. In Application

V. Substance

A. Baptism

B. Lord's Supper