

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

A. The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) has 7 sacraments including baptism, the eucharist (Lord’s Supper), confirmation, confession (penance), anointing of the sick (last rights), marriage, & ordination.

1. Why is it that the Roman Catholic Church has these 7 sacraments?
2. The next big follow-up question to ask is, where is the warrant from the Bible?
3. It is delightful to be in a church & earnestly desires to be a people of the book.
 - a. The Scriptures are to guide our daily lives.
 - b. It is to guide how we think.
 - c. It is especially to guide how we worship & how the church ought to function.

B. From a careful examination of all of Scripture the Westminster Assembly determined in Sec 4: “There be only 2 sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, baptism, & the Supper of the Lord: ...”

1. Some of the 7 RCC’s sacraments have been included in their list because of some difficulty in RCC’s distinguishing between an ordinance and a sacrament.
 - a. According to Dr. Joel Beeke: “By ‘ordinances’ the *Confession* refers to the public means of worship which Christ ordained or commanded, such as baptism, the Lord's Supper, public prayer, & singing praise to God (see *Confession*, 21.5).”
 - b. WCF 31, sec 2 gives us a broader use of the word ordinance: “ It belongeth to synods & councils, ministerially to determine controversies of faith, & cases of conscience; ... if consonant to the Word of God, [councils] are to be received with reverence & submission; not only for their agreement with the Word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God appointed thereunto in his Word.”
 - 1) **Acts 15** & the Jerusalem council appoints us to have a connectional church.
 - 2) “Ordinance” comes from the Latin “ordinare” with means “to put in order.” Something laid-out in Scripture that we seek to follow in the church is an ordinance.
2. Some evangelical circles they prefer to use “ordinance” and not “sacrament” altogether. They even consider Baptism & the Lord’s Supper as ordinances. I hope you agree that there is a much greater emphasis on the Spiritual weightiness fo a sacrament vs an ordinance.
3. Some sacraments of the RCC are not a confusion between rite, ordinance, and sacrament. They are outright contrary to the gospel (i.e. confession / penance).

Speaking of our 2 sacraments, sec 4 goes on to say “neither of which may be dispensed by any, but by a minister of the Word lawfully ordained.”

1. **1 Cor 4:1-2: “Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ & stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”** The Greek word for “servants” here can be translated as “ministers.”

2. The OPC used this as a prooftext to show that it is gospel ministers are entrusted as “**stewards of the mysteries of God.**” This has to do with both Scripture & the Sacraments.
3. Dr. A.A. Hodge wrote, “But since the Church is organized as a society, under laws executed by regularly appointed officers, it is evident that ordinances [sacraments]— which are badges of Church membership ... seals of the covenant formed by the great Head of the Church with his living members— can properly be administered only by the highest legal officers of the Church.” ¹

sec 5. “The sacraments of the old testament, in regard of the spiritual things thereby signified & exhibited, were, for substance, the same with those of the new.”

A. This section tells us that the OT circumcision has become the NT baptism.

1. → **Rom 4:8-12**

2. → **Col 2:11-13**

B. The OT Passover has become the NT Lord’s Supper. → **1 Cor 5:6-8**

C. Consider Dr. G.I. Williamson’s writing on this matter.²

¹ Hodge, A.A. *The Westminster Confession: A Commentary*, p335

² Williamson, G.I. *The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes*, p266