

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #11

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

Lesson #11

Chapter XXVII: Of the Sacraments

XXVII: i

What the Sacraments are:

- A. Signs - a sign tells of something else, besides itself
- B. Seals - a seal confirms something to be true and genuine
- C. Ordinances instituted by God (*Genesis 17:9-11; Exodus 13:9, 10*)
- D. The Purposes of Sacraments
 1. To represent Christ and His benefits to believers (*I Corinthians 11:25, 26*)
 2. To confirm the believer's interest in Christ (*Galatians 3:27*)
 3. To put a visible difference between Church and world (*I Corinthians 11:27-29*)
 4. To unite believers to the service of God (*Romans 6:3, 4*)

XXVII: ii

What Sacraments are not:

- A. There is a union between the sign and the thing signified
- B. The grace of God is not given through any power in the outward sign (*I Peter 3:21*)
- C. The grace of God does not depend on the man administering the sacrament (*I Corinthians 3:7*)
- D. The grace of God depends upon the work of the Spirit (*John 6:63; I Corinthians 6:11*)
- E. There are only two sacraments instituted by Christ
- F. The sacraments of Old Testament were same meaning as New Testament (*Colossians 2:11, 12; I Corinthians 5:7, 8*)

Circumcision - Baptism

1. Administered once only to each
2. Administered to believers and to their children
3. Picture of inception of union with God (cleansing, justification, etc.)
4. Recipient wholly passive (he is circumcised-baptized: receives what another performs)

The Passover - The Lord's Supper

1. Administered repeatedly to each
2. Administered to believers only
3. Picture of maintenance of union with God (nourishment, growth, sanctification, etc.)
4. Recipient active (he partakes by his own act)

Lesson #11

Chapter XXVIII: Of Baptism

XXVIII: i, ii

Definition of Baptism

- A. A Sacrament instituted by Christ (*Matthew 28:19*)

- B. Baptism signifies and seals the following:
 1. Admission into visible Church (*Acts 2:41*)
 2. Having part of Covenant of Grace (*Romans 4:11; Colossians 2:4, 12*)
 3. Engrafting into Christ (*Romans 6:3, 4*)
 4. Regeneration (*Titus 3:5*)
 5. Remission of sins (*Acts 2:38*)
 6. Duty of new obedience

- C. Baptism continues to the end of the world (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

- D. How Baptism is administered:
 1. Use water
 2. Use formula "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."
 3. By an ordained minister

XXVIII: iii, iv, v, vi, vii

Questions about Baptism

- A. How is the water to be applied? (iii)
 1. Dipping (immersion) not necessary
 2. Pouring or sprinkling are right (*Mark 7:4; Acts 11:15, 16*)

- B. Who are to be baptized? (iv)
 1. Believers
 2. Children of believers (*Genesis 17:9, 10; Colossians 2:11, 12; Acts 2:38, 39; Acts 16:14, 15, 33*)

- C. Does Baptism save a man? (v)
 1. A man can be saved who is not baptized (*Romans 4:11; Luke 23:40-43*)
 2. A man can be baptized and not be saved

- D. What good then is Baptism? (vi)
 1. Grace is not tied to outward baptism (*1 Peter 3:21*)
 2. Grace is promised and conferred by the Holy Spirit to all to whom grace belongs (*Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 5:25, 26*)

- E. Baptism is not to be repeated

“THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM”

- Cambridge

“The sacraments are holy signs
And precious gospel seals;
They exhibit what the Lord designs,
And what His Word reveals.

But these are not themselves the grace;
Which signs and seals set forth;
The supper’s not the sacrifice,
Nor water the new birth.

The sacraments were never meant
A substitute for grace;
They’re not the truths they represent,
Nor must they take their place.

Sinners may publicly profess,
And signs and seals receive,
Of what they never did possess,
Or what they don’t believe.

Man may baptize, but ‘tis the Lord
Regenerates the heart;
None but the Spirit, by His Word,
That blessing can impart.

Preserve us, Lord, from self-deceit,
From resting on a sign;
Bestow what symbols indicate,
And give us life divine.

Let none who preach the gospel hide
This solemn truth from men:
They may with water be baptiz’d
Yet not be born again.”

Lesson #11

Chapter XXIX: Of the Lord's Supper

XXIX: i

What the Supper is: (*I Corinthians 11:23-26; 10:16, 17; 12:13*)

- A. A Sacrament instituted by Christ on the night He was betrayed
- B. To be observed to the end of the world
- C. Given for:
 - 1. Perpetual remembrance of His sacrifice
 - 2. Sealing of benefits of His death to believers
 - 3. Spiritual nourishment
 - 4. Promise of new obedience
 - 5. Pledge of communion with Christ and each other

XXIX: ii, iii, iv, v, vi

What the Supper is not:

- A. True doctrine
 - 1. Elements are bread and wine
 - 2. Sacramental actions
 - a. consecration
 - b. breaking bread
 - c. distribution of elements
- B. False doctrine
 - 1. Transubstantiation (change elements into literal body and blood)
 - 2. No real sacrifice (mass)
 - 3. Worshipping and lifting up the elements
 - 4. Denying cup to congregation
 - 5. Private communion

XXIX: vii, viii

The Spiritual Presence of Christ in the Supper

- A. Christ is present in reality
- B. Christ is not physically present
- C. Christ is spiritually present (*I Corinthians 10:16*)
- D. Christ is received spiritually by faith
- E. Unbelievers do not receive Christ when they take the elements
- F. Unbelievers who take communion receive judgement

Lesson #11

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith
Read: Chapters XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 200-230
2. The Book of Church Order of the P. C. A.
Read: Chapters 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace. What is a sign and what is a seal?
(GIW, pg 200) (1) _____
(2) _____
2. Who instituted the sacraments? (WCF, XXVII/I) _____
3. Is grace unto salvation conferred by any power in the sacraments? (WCF, XXVII/III) Yes No
4. Do the sacraments save us? Explain. (GIW, pg 203-204; WCF, XXVII/II, III) Yes No

5. Compare briefly the sacraments of the Old and New Testaments. (WCF, XXVII/V;
GIW, pg 205-206) _____

6. Of what is baptism a sign and seal? (WCF, XXVIII/I) (1) _____
(2) _____ (3) _____
(4) _____ (5) _____
7. Does baptism mean dipping or immersion? (GIW, pg 210) _____
8. Who are to be baptized? (WCF, XXVIII/IV) _____

9. Are all those who are baptized regenerated and all those not baptized unregenerated?
(WCF, XXVIII/V, VI) Yes No

Lesson #11, Questions continued:

10. Is baptism to be administered to any person more than once? (WCF, XXVIII/VII)
 Yes No
11. Why is the Lord's Supper to be observed in Christ's Church to the end of the world?
(WCF, XXIX/I) (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____
(5) _____
12. Is Christ sacrificed anew and remission of sins made in the Lord's Supper? (WCF, XXIX/II)
 Yes No
13. May the Lord's Supper be administered privately rather than in the congregation of God's people assembled for worship? (WCF, XXIX/IV; GIW, pg 223f) Yes No
14. Do worthy receivers outwardly partaking of the visible elements really and indeed receive and feed upon Christ crucified and all the benefits of His death? (WCF, XXIX, VII) Yes No
If so, explain how this can be. _____

15. Who may not receive the Lord's Supper? (WCF, XXIX/VIII) _____
16. From what source and no other are the principles of public worship to be derived? (BCO, 47-1)

17. Do the Scriptures forbid the worshipping of God in any way not appointed in His Word?
(BCO, 47-1) Yes No
18. Is public worship merely a gathering of God's people with each other? Explain. (BCO, 47-2)
 Yes No _____

19. What does the Bible teach are the proper elements of worship service? (BCO, 47-9)
(1) _____ (5) _____
(2) _____ (6) _____
(3) _____ (7) _____
(4) _____ (8) _____

Lesson #11, Questions continued:

20. Which day is to be kept by the Church as the Sabbath? (BCO, 48-2) _____

21. Is preparation to be made for it? (BCO, 48-3; 48-5; 48-6) Yes No

22. What Spirit is expected in those present for public worship? (BCO, 49-4) _____

23. Is it important and desirable that families worship together? (BCO, 49-4) Yes No

24. The Scriptures are to be read in the language of the people from a paraphrase. (BCO, 50-3)
 True False

25. May ministers be confined to fixed forms of prayer for public worship? (BCO, 52-4)
 Yes No

26. What does preaching require? (BCO, 53-3)

(1) _____ (4) _____

(2) _____ (5) _____

(3) _____

27. Is the offering an act of worship? (BCO, 54) Yes No Explain: _____
