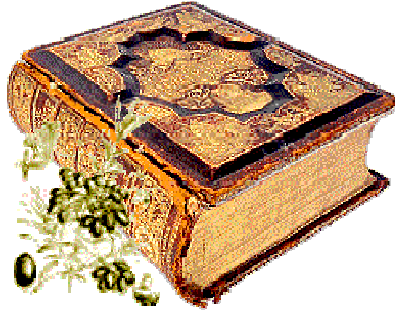


Theology for Beginners – The Sacraments

Overview

Christ initiated the seven Sacraments of the church.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they became more fully developed in the early church. The source for all of the sacraments can be found rooted in the bible and divided into three groups as follows:



- The sacraments of **initiation** include Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist [CCC # 1212].
- The sacraments of **healing** are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick [CCC # 1422].
- The sacraments of **service** are Holy Orders and Matrimony [CCC # 1533]. All sacraments give sanctifying grace. Baptism initiates it while reconciliation restores it.

Biblical sources for the Sacraments

All of the sacraments can be found in the Bible. The book of John is the best reference for these as it is so theological in nature. Many non-Catholics – especially Protestants – object to our view on the sacraments. Most Protestants only accept Baptism as being valid.

The biblical references for each of the sacraments are as follows.

1. **Baptism:** John 3:22; *“After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing.”* Also see Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 28:18-20;
2. **Confirmation:** Acts 8:14–17, 9:17, 19:6, - 9:17; *“So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said,*

“Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit.” See also Hebrews 6:2

3. **Eucharist:** John 6:22-69 - 6:32; *“So Jesus said to them, Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.”*
4. **Reconciliation:** John 20:22-23; *“And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”* See also Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:5-12
5. **Anointing of the sick:** Mark 6:13 *“They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.”*
6. **Matrimony:** Mark 10:11–12 *“He said to them, whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”* See also Luke 16:18.
7. **Holy Orders:** Exodus 19:6 *“You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites.”* See also Luke 22:19

All biblical text in Italic print is from the New American Bible (NAB)

For more information see the Catechism paragraphs CCC # 1210-1666