

Introduction to the Sacraments

Mystery

Greek: Mysterion Latin: Sacramentum

* St Paul in Ephesians 3:8-12 “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”

- * “Mystery of His will”
 - * Ephesians 1:9
- * “Mystery of God”
 - * Colossians 2:2-3
- * “Mystery of Christ”
 - * Ephesians 3:4
- * “Mystery of the Kingdom of God”
 - * Mark 4:11
- * “Mystery of the Gospel”
 - * Ephesians 6:19
- * “Mystery of the Faith”
 - * 1 Timothy 3:9
- * “Mystery of godliness”
 - * 1 Timothy 3:16

Mystery

- * This mystery is the mystery of Gods love to humanity since He created them and which continued after Adams sin
 - * Romans 5:8 “...but God demonstrates his own love for us, in that *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”
- * After Our Lords Resurrection He returned Mankind, who sinned and were separated , back to the bosom of the Father
- * Through our representation in Christ's Body, we are now accepted to the Father
- * There is no longer enmity with God, we are redeemed
- * Redemption is the mystery of Gods love to mankind which was demonstrated to us through His Son’s Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection .
 - * Romans 1:7-10 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”
- * The continuation of this mystery (Gods love to Mankind) is performed through the action of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Father, through different means/gifts which are the Sacraments of the church.

What is a Sacrament?

- * The church sacrament is an invisible grace we receive by practicing a visible rite and using a visible sign or substance, performed by a priest
- * To have a sacrament we need 3 things
 1. Priest
 2. Visible Rite
 3. Substance
- * 7 Sacraments performed in the Church
 1. Baptism
 2. Confirmation
 3. Repentance & Confession
 4. Communion
 5. Matrimony
 6. Priesthood
 7. Unction of the Sick

Sacrament Snapshot

Sacrament	Performer	Invisible Grace	Visible Rite	Substance
1. Baptism	Priest	Release from the bondage of original sin & 2 nd birth from Water and Spirit	Burying in water	Water
2. Confirmation	Priest	The Holy Spirit dwells in Us	Anointing with oil	Myron
3. Repentance & Confession	Priest	Forgiveness of sins	Putting the cross on the persons head	Cross in Priests hand
4. Communion	Priest	To Abide in Christ	The Liturgy	Bread and Wine
5. Matrimony	Priest	Union of Two into One	Matrimonial Prayer	Matrimonial Garb
6. Priesthood	Bishop	Accept special gifts of priesthood	Priesthood Prayer	Priestly Garb
7. Unction of the Sick	Priest	Healing of spirit and body	Prayers for the Sick	Oil

Sacraments

- * All Sacraments are Biblical
- * Two types of Sacraments; Redemptive and Non-Redemptive Sacraments
- * Redemptive Sacraments
 - * Are essential for Salvation
 1. Baptism
 2. Confirmation
 3. Repentance & Confession
 4. Communion
 - * These sacraments give the believer the seal of the Holy Spirit
- * Non-Redemptive Sacraments
 - * Are not essential for Salvation
 1. Matrimony
 2. Priesthood
 3. Unction of the Sick

Medicinal Comparison

Physical & Spiritual

	Preventative	<u>Curative</u>	Supplementary
Physical	Vaccines against diseases ex: small pox, polio, measles,..	Specific medicines to treat disease and infection ex: Antibiotics, antiallergics	To strengthen body immunity to fight diseases ex: Vitamins, minerals
Spiritual	<i>Confirmation</i> ex: Holy Spirit dwells to fortify against sin and evil <i>Matrimony</i> ex: Protects couple from falling into sin of adultery	<i>Baptism</i> ex: Provides cure from original sin and from committed sins <i>Repentance & confession</i> ex: Provides forgiveness of sins <i>Unction of the Sick</i> ex: Provides cure for physically, spiritually, and psychotically illness from sin	<i>Communion</i> ex: We gain power to overcome the evil one <i>Priesthood</i> ex: Gives the priest grace and power in his struggle to be our example and not a stumbling block; power to live in purity <i>Repentance & confession</i> ex: Receive advice, help and encouragement from Spiritual Father

Sacraments

- * Imperishable Sacraments

- * These sacraments must not be repeated again at any time

- * The features of these sacraments are never lost

1. Baptism – Son of God forever

2. Confirmation – Soldier of our King forever

3. Priesthood – Servant and Priest of the High Priest forever

Summary of Sacramental Benefits

- * All sacraments allow us to become members of Christ's Body
 - * Ephesians 5:30 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”
- * Continuously fed spiritually by the Body and Blood of Our Lord
 - * John 6:51;57-58 “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world... As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”
- * Through the rest of the sacraments we become His friends and His servants