

New City Catechism

Question 43: What are the sacraments or ordinances?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Romans 6:4 and Luke 22:19–20

Begin by posing the question 43 from above. Does anyone know what a sacrament is? What about an ordinance?

Sacraments are signs, symbols, tokens; it is a visible sign of an inward work of God's grace.

- What would be a sign or symbol of marriage? (the wedding ring) Marriage is considered a sacrament by some Christians.

Ordinances are authoritative rules or laws; a decree or a command.

- Can anyone think of anything in our city that could be considered an ordinance?
- Can anyone guess what 2 things we practice as believers in Christ that are not only sacraments (signs/symbols), but are also commanded by Jesus Christ?

Now reveal the answer. Commit it to memory (perhaps the easiest one in the whole catechism!)

We will spend the next few weeks dealing with each of these (baptism and the Lord's supper) separately, but for now, let's look at when/where Jesus commanded each of these.

Read Matthew 28:18-19.

- When did Jesus say these things?
- If you were about to say goodbye to your friends, knowing that you wouldn't be with them for some time, how important would those final words be?
- If that's the case, what do we know about what Jesus says here?

Read Luke 22:19-20.

- Again, when did Jesus say these things?
- In what ways do you think baptism and the Lord's supper are signs/symbols of an inward work of God's grace?

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- Again, when did Jesus say these things?
- In what ways do you think baptism and the Lord's supper are signs/symbols of an inward work of God's grace?

Spend some time in closing, thanking God that he divinely appointed these sacraments and ordinances for the family of believers to practice together.

The video is worth watching. It does an excellent job of explaining how the sacraments are a beautiful picture of God's grace toward us.

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Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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