

Intro:

Finish sacraments. Last week, similarities; now, differences. READ WLC Q&A 177. Begin/continue life.

Main Point of Text: The Father ingrafts you into Christ's eternal life to bear fruit through you as He grows your life within Him.

Sermon Point: *You Have Been Grafted Into Christ to Grow with Him.*

Move 1: *God the Father gave you life in Christ, and sealed it with the sign of Baptism.*

LC: "baptism is to be administered ... with water, to be a sign and seal of [y]our regeneration and ingrafting into Christ". Signifies your being given eternal, spiritual life by union in Christ:

- Galatians 3:27: *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
- John 15:1, 3, 4-5: The Father (Farmer) ingrafts you as branches into Christ, the life-giving vine.
- Covenant sign of God joining you into Christ's Body is thus, LC: "to be administered but once [WCF 28:7] ... and that even to infants".

Move 2: *God the Father grows your life with Christ, and seals this with the sign of Communion.*

LC: "the Lord's supper is to be administered ... in the elements of bread and wine, to represent and exhibit Christ as spiritual nourishment to [your] soul ... to confirm [y]our continuance and growth in him ..."

Signifies your living eternal, spiritual life by the cultivation of communion with Christ:

- 1 Corinthians 10:16: *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*
- John 15:2, 5, 7-8: God the Father prunes you as branches in the vine of Christ so that He produces a fruitful life through you. So that you continue to feed on the Word, the source of life and living.
- So, LC: "that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves" (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Feeding must be, LC: "often". "Directory for the Publick Worship of God": "frequently".

Move 3: *You have been born in Christ to live forever with Him and His Heavenly Father.*

LC: "differ" in signs, but same in substance. Aspects of having Christ and His benefits in and with you:

- Baptism meant to remind you that God has given you new life in Christ.
- The Lord's Supper is to help you cultivate and grow your life in Christ so you persevere in it.
- John 15:2a, 4-6: The Father bears heavenly fruit through you in Christ. Sacraments to sustain life.
- Romans 6:1-11 (esp. 4, 5, 8, 10, 11); 11:17-25. The Father uses both sacraments to create and cultivate union and communion with Christ. So that you live in this life, and will live forever.

Conclusion:

So you eat of the Tree of Life. And drink of the River of Life. Forever with the Father.

Similar to WLC 77, teaching the differences between Justification & Sanctification), So WLC 177 teaches the differences between Baptism and the Lord's Supper.	
Baptism	Lord's Supper
Once (person is passive, done once by God to him/her)	Often (person is active, he/she does with God ongoing)
Water is the sign	Bread and Wine together are the sign
Symbolizes regeneration, Ingrafting into the spiritual life of Christ and His Body.	Symbolizes refreshment, Nourishing life by spiritually feeding on Christ with His Body.
Adults and infants. Those who have been joined.	No infants. Those who have grown and matured.
New Birth.	Ongoing Walk.
In Christ, <i>union</i> .	With Christ, <i>communion</i> .
Planted in this life.	Fruitful unto eternal life.

HP: *You Have Been Grafted Into Christ to Grow with Him.*