

Theology Simply Explained — WSC93 “Sacraments on Earth Under the Administration of the Son Over the House in Heaven”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 93—especially explaining how in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, the Son Who is over His own house in the New Covenant, acts upon His church on the earth.

Q93. What is a sacrament? A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

It’s important that we recognize what Hebrews chapter 3. Teaches us that There was a period in which, The church, the lord’s house. Was administered by Moses. He was a servant in the house. And actually, To Abraham, not Moses. It was given. Uh, for instance, the sacrament of circumcision. And to Moses, Or through Moses.

Was given. The Passover and Many, many other. Sacramental ceremonies. And one of the glories of the Lord Jesus, that the The book of Hebrews teaches us about is that when The house of God passes from the servant, who is in the house? To the Son who is over the house.

And note that it’s the same house. Uh, God’s covenantal people. From. The old testament in the administration under Moses. Are continued in. And identified with. God’s covenant, people. Now Under Christ. It is wrong to say that his covenantal people. Were exclusively ethnic under Moses. That was not true. There were many Gentiles who were grafted in under the old testament.

Uh, but the The overflowing or the in gathering of the multitude of the nation’s. And it did come under the administration. In Christ to the glory of the Son. Because I begin to say a couple minutes ago, it’s important for us to notice. That one of the ways that the glory of the Son, over the house over against Who is Jesus over against the The lesser glory of the servant, who is in the house?

Is in the simplicity on earth. Of the worship as a whole. Because now, Jesus leads the worship in glory in heaven where united dead? We are seated with him and the heavenly places. And there are actual Perfected, souls of the just made perfect who are in glory in that congregation is continually increasing as believers pass.

From this life, and it includes. All of the believers from the administration under Moses as well. So they have come into the new covenant because the new covenant is being administered from heaven. And there are the The souls that have come alive in Christ. And our reigning with him.

There are the souls of the just made perfect. And then there is the visible church. On earth, which includes. Um, Which is also administered by Jesus. From heaven by means of his servants on earth. Now, to the visible church on earth, he has given sacraments The invisible church that part of his church.

Uh, that has already gathered into glory doesn’t need sacraments. Why do they not need Christ and his benefits? Represented and sealed and applied to them. By sensible signs. And the answer is, Because they have Christ. You know, they don’t need him represented to him to them because they have him.

They already have him. And his benefits. And they are. Uh, they are worshiping him and holiness and happiness. And waiting the resurrection we have ever on earth. Need. Heaven to be connected to earth for us. And the Lord, Jesus does this in both of the sacraments that he has appointed.

If simplicity in the sacraments brings Jesus glory, why not? Just have none. Well, because he has appointed to sacraments. In which he connects himself in heaven. To his church on earth. When he’s instituting baptism and Matthew 28, he says all authority in heaven. And on earth has been given to me.

Therefore, as you go into all the nations, Make disciples. Baptizing them. In the name of the Father, the Son of the Holy Ghost and teaching them all that. I have commanded. And so, when we are taught, It is true that we are taught on earth. But we are, especially taught the commandments of Christ that come from him in heaven.

And his authority in heaven, is exercised on earth. In the authority of the preaching. This is why Hebrews. To integers. 12 says that it is Christ. Um, Whom we must not refuse in the public worship and we hear in the public portion. This is why Romans 10. Says that they hear Christ and believe him.

Unbelievers. Come to faith. This is why Paul tells the Ephesians that they heard Christ. And we know, of course, Christ never visited Ephesus in his earthly life. Well, that’s true of the word but it’s also true of the sacrament of baptism. Because the expectation. That had been ever since John Jesus’s cousin.

Um, was baptizing with water. And one of the things that he announced that was a special mark. Of the one who would be the Messiah. He is not the Messiah, but the one who would be the Messiah. One of the special marks is that he would baptize with the Spirit and with fire.

It sounded from what John was saying, that water baptism would stop. When the Messiah came. Because there would be the true and better baptism. So in Jesus says all authority in heaven has been given unto me. And then, Some. Uh, weak and a half later or so. The heat pours out to the Holy Spirit from heaven at Pentecost, they recognize this is what was prophesied about him.

But also all authority on earth has been given to him. He says there in Matthew 28. And one of the things that shows his authority his activity, On the earth, in the visible church. And that’s important. This is indivisible church, not everyone who’s baptized with water from the earth.

Is saved. Everyone that is baptized with water on the earth. Is part of the visible church and is under the authority of Jesus’s administration of the visible church on earth. But, But they need the true baptism that, which John had prophesied that, which we see, Uh, most exemplified at Pentecost.

They need the Spirit Poured out on them from heaven. This is the true and the great Christian baptism. This is the one that baptizes you into Christ. You are baptized visibly into the visible body of Christ by water baptism. But actual baptism into Christ is done by the Holy Spirit and that’s what Romans 6 is talking about.

When we’re baptized into Christ Jesus, then we are baptized into his death. Then we are baptized into his resurrection. So it’s the pouring of the Spirit that puts you into Jesus’s death and resurrection. But Jesus does exercise authority. And administer his church by his servants on earth. He does us good in the means of his grace there.

His means and he works by his grace in them. And so there's this connection of heaven and earth. That is displayed in water baptism. That Jesus is the one who's acting in his church to save just as Jesus is the one who teaches his church. When while ordained officers in the church, Command.

To keep and of course Jesus is with us. To make all those things effectual. And that's what he says at the end of Matthew 28. And lo, I am with you. Always. Well, that's one connection of heaven to earth. And this is one, one sacrament that Jesus is commanded in the new testament, as it is administered by him from heaven.

The second sacrament that Jesus. Has commanded to be observed. And it's There's the Lord's supper. And he says, do this and remembrance of me and he said do this. And remember it's of me and in both of the do, this is he is again connecting heaven to earth. When he says, this is my body given for you.

The papists would bring Jesus down from heaven. And have the bread turn into his flesh on earth. Those who are memorialists, they say that the Lord's supper is just a Um, a memorial service, a memorial meal, They separate earth from heaven and saying we are just acting on on earth in a way that remembers The one who is now in heaven.

But Jesus gives himself to us by faith. Just as he does. Through the word just as he does through prayer, should not be surprising. That he would ordain a sacrament. And yes, we only eat bread on earth. But he's communicating himself to us. As we eat the bread by faith.

Just as this is our great hope when we listen to preaching, not just that we would learn new things and have our thoughts changed and become better people. But that Christ, by his spirit would communicate himself to us through the means of the word. And so, he makes that Much more, literally palpable, you can squeeze it with your hand.

That's what palpable is. He makes it much more palpable. He makes it. Something you could taste, it makes it. Something you can smell. He gives us bread and he says, this is my body. Which is broken for you. Do this and remembrance of me and it's not a memorial the way humans.

The, the way we usually think about remembering things. It's uh it's a remembrance in which we act upon himself, like God remembered Noah in the argument forgotten him, he wasn't trying to make sure he wouldn't forget him. No, he was acting upon the reality of Noah and the ark.

And, Yeah, when he remembers his promises, he's acting upon his promises. It's not that there's a chance that God would Lose track of his promises. And so he says, do this and remembrance of me with the bread. He had friends to us that he is giving himself by his spirit.

Whom he pours out from heaven. That it is, is giving himself to us on earth. That gives us strength life health, goodness in our walk with him. Is one of the great things as you're eating the bread, at the Lord's supper. To lift your hearts to Christ and say thank you Lord.

For giving yourself to be my strength. I have no strength. And I felt that keenly this week and helped keenly as cleanly, as I should know, whatever combination. There is Um, Yeah, this is one of the things and we'll be talking about the sacraments and more detail. In the questions to come.

But one of one of the things for me every week is as the elements are being passed. I enjoy seeing The whole body. Of Christ that has gathered in that place, receiving the elements anticipating each of them taking But then, when I take myself, I think upon, Upon what he has said.

In those words of institutions, as he connects heaven to earth, And every week, I'm so grateful. Because a I have felt my neediness and I know his communicating himself to me at that table and I'm trusting him to give me more grace by faith. But I'm also asking thanking him.

That he is, reminding me of my neediness because I haven't felt my neediness as I should and those are the two great things that I think about and thank him for Uh, when I'm taking the bread. Uh, but he's not just reminding us that he gives himself to us.

Well, from heaven, even while we're still on earth. By his spirit. Is also reminding us that he had ministers the covenant in heaven. He has taken his blood into glory. He has secured all of the blessings that were promised in the keeping of the covenant. They cannot be lost because Christ has kept them.

And so, Uh, when he says, Um this cup is the new covenant in my blood do this, as often as you drink it and remembrance of me, the drinking of the, the cup after blood has been said in a covenanting, ceremony is the confirmation. Of that covenant and the looking forward, no one, no one enters into covenant hoping that one of the parties will fail and have to die.

Uh the drinking of the cup is confirmation and anticipation, desire that the covenant would be fulfilled with all the blessings would be enjoyed on this on both sides and when we drink the cup of the new covenant in Christ's blood, there's actually no doubt that the blessings Will be fulfilled.

So there's confirmation and there's gladness when you take the cup. So when I take the cup and it's a tiny little cup so I have to like, put a little bit of it. Yeah, start the wine on the front of my tongue and The kind of You know, try and and get a swallow out of it.

It's hard to get an entire swallow out of the cups that we have. But as I drink, the cup, I receive Christ a confirming to me. That the covenant is sealed. The covenant disc kept the blessings are sure and not only are the blessings. Sure from God's end. But even my, keeping my end because he does obligate us to things as those who belong to him and this world, even those things have been secured by his blood.

And so, I can ask him from more of the help of his spirit, he can ask him for progress in my, sanctification can ask him that, I would finish my race. Well and I rejoice over the certain entity of those things because the the hope for those things is in a covenant that is now being administered from heaven.

From the throne. The very holy of holies that is the reality to which tabernacle and temple holy of holies looked forward and were small. If we can say it this way reverently cheap imitations. Of the truth thing. And so there's this wonderful connection of Heaven to earth. In the Lord's supper.

These two are. Or the sacraments of the new testament. Because the new testament. It's a continuity. God's people are one. Throughout throughout the the history of redemption. But in the new testament, The covenant is no longer being administered from art desert. There's not a servant in the house. Who administers?

It's the sun who is over the house, who has come And this is why in a covenantal second. Where more? Less outward. Uh, glory more outward, simplicity actually has more substance and efficacy. Because there is the glory. In heaven. Uh this is why we don't have pure simplicity or extremes simplicity which would be nothing palpable or tangible at all.

Jesus's instituted, these two things. That are tangible. To connect his administration of the covenant in heaven to our experience. Of that administration on. So

we'll get to baptism that, of course, is one of the great reasons. Why? Baptism, must be boring. Because in the connection between heaven and earth.

The spirit is poured out upon us. And the display of his authority on earth in the covenant and is being with us on earth in the covenant to apply it to us. Is done by imitation of what the lord jesus did. Just as we imitate. His own sacramental actions, when we come to the to the supper as well.

So that's why there's only those two sacraments i think once you understand That they are jesus's commandments. For things as churches to to observe you can't go pay best, right? You can't just invent. A whole bunch of other sacraments. In which jesus has not acting upon his visible church on earth.

From his Place in heaven. There are just those two. So, the question That we have this week is, Which are the sacraments of the new testament. And the answer is. The sacraments of the new testament are. Baptism. And the Lord's supper.