

Why the Holy Sacraments?

Why do Christians believe in the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper? What is their purpose and role in the life of a believer? Are they necessary? Why do Christians disagree so vehemently about what happens through these sacraments and how they're practiced? Together let's dig into scripture to discover the meaning and purpose of these Holy Sacraments in the Christian life and what happens when we practice them. Then we'll discuss whether the sacraments produce faith or whether they require faith to be effective.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Would you consider yourself knowledgeable about the holy sacraments? How do you currently practice the sacraments? What language have you heard used to explain them?
- Describe what comes to mind first when you hear the word “sacrament” and what feelings arise for you.



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Why the Holy Sacraments?](#)

READ [Genesis 17:1-11](#), [Exodus 12:1-13](#), [Acts 2:36-42](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In, segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Dave Bast talk with Jim Brownson about the sacraments as God's promises to us and as invitations to faith. How might this perspective affect how you enter into your celebration of the sacraments during worship?
- Consider the conversation about covenant and signs in segment 1. In your own words, what is the reality you're living into when you participate in the Lord's Supper or baptism (witnessing a baptism is participation)?
- What do you think it means that there is relationship between the Old Testament covenants and New Testament sacraments?
- How do the holy sacraments help us see our faith as more than simply spiritual? What other ways do you notice a relationship between your physical state and your spiritual state?
- Find out if your church has a liturgy or standard form of service that it follows for baptism and/or communion (Lord's Supper/Eucharist). If it does, read and study it. What do the words and actions in it tell you about your church's beliefs? If it does not, find out why not. What does this tell you about its beliefs?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#), [Colossians 2:9-15](#)

CONCLUSION

Union with Christ is the dominant theme of the holy sacraments. How are you reflecting this belief in your preparation for, discussion of, and participation in the sacraments? Reflect on the role of the holy sacraments in your life of faith. When have the sacraments helped your faith to grow? When has your faith helped you participate in the sacraments? Write a prayer of thanks for God's gift of the holy sacraments.

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