

CatClub: Question 43



This week we come to the topic of the sacraments (also called ordinances).

1. Q43 asks: What are the sacraments (or ordinances)? Answer: The sacraments (or ordinances) given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith (=God's chosen people) by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

Wow! That's quite an answer! Some points to note:

(i) 'instituted' means 'introduced' or 'established'.

(ii) 'seals' are guarantees that something promised to a believer is actually true.

Explanation: Here's the point: **The sacraments are the gospel made visible.** We need these visible promises and guarantees because we are sinners and our faith is sometimes weak.

The 'gospel' is the good news revealed in John chapter 3, verses 16-17: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

Please note: **The Lord's Supper** is also called '**Communion**', '**Holy Communion**' or '**The Eucharist**'. It is *not* the same as the Roman Catholic Mass in which it is believed that the bread and wine are actually transformed into the body and blood of Jesus – something that the Bible doesn't teach.

2. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 6, verse 4. This talks about the reality to which baptism points and which God guarantees to bring to fruition in our lives. We will discuss this at greater length next week when we look at Q44 (see below).

>>>Next week's question: What is baptism?

This week's songs:

'By faith' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE>

'Living Waters' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVEsJXKfhEo>

Romans 6:4

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.