

ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENT

RECLAIMING OUR SACRED MINISTRY FROM RELIGIOUS RITUAL

*"For we being many are one bread, and one body:
for we are all partakers of that one bread.*

~ 1 Corinthians 10:17

1. Who Administers the Sacrament

- a. Ministry is misunderstood if defined as priest, a more important ministry than pastor.
- b. *Then, who administers the sacraments?* (ordinances for the less sacramental)
- c. To allow anyone but "holy men" "ordained" priests administer sacraments is sacrilege!

Sacrilege ~*def.* "The crime of violating or profaning sacred things; or the alienating to laymen or to common purposes what has been appropriated or consecrated to religious persons or uses."

- d. Only the consecrated ones can touch, bless understand, administer these sacred rites.
- e. Ministry is misunderstood as holy men handling elements involved in mysterious ritual

2. What is Sacrament

- a. Sacrament ~*def*- An outward visible sign (a rite) instituted by Christ to give grace.
- b. Eucharist/Lord's Supper is a definition of sacrament (elements: bread, cup; 1 of 7)
- c. Theologically, sacraments viewed like circumcision (a sign) - Rom 4:11, Gal 5:2,6, 6:15
- d. Word is from Latin 'sacramentum' translated from Greek 'musterion' (secret, mystery)
- e. 'Mystery' as a secret rite or doctrine known/practiced only by those whom God reveals
- f. Places where 'sacramentum' shows up in the Vulgate: Eph 1:9, 3:3, 3:9, 5:32, Col 1:27
- g. The word 'sacrament' begins and ends with a failure to see the mystery!

3. How to Administer

- a. The great argument for ages has been over what and how to administer it. 1 Cor 11:27
- b. Word created by 'ad-' (meaning "to") + 'minister' (meaning "to give, serve, attend to")
- c. Administer ~*def*(Web) To act as a minister, to dispense, steward (manage).
- d. Aren't we all made servants of the Lord and stewards? Eph 4:1, 12, 16, 1 Cor 4:1
- e. Our ministry is to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery - Eph 3:9
- f. We are to administer (dispense, steward, minister) what is the sacrament (mystery)

4. The Mystery of the Sacrament

- a. Behind the years of religion, ritual, misunderstanding, hiding the mystery is what is real
- b. A sacrament is a visible sign of something hidden, ergo a mystery revealed - Rom 16:25
- c. The mystery was revealed: it concerned Christ and His Body (new creature) Eph 5:32
- d. The great mystery not how bread turns into Christ, but how you are conformed to Him.
 - i. Col 1:27 – The mystery (sacramentum) is Christ in us, not Christ in bread/cup.
- e. If sacrament is the gospel revealed, then it's not wine, but blood of Christ - 1Cor 10:16
 - i. When we try contributing our blood, sweat, tears we profane what is sacred.
- f. If the sacrament is the mystery, then we hold up the Head, not bread – Col 2:19
 - i. The bread is the Body of Christ, which is who we are as his Body – 1 Cor 10:17
- g. If the administration is our ministry, then we are all partakers - 1 Cor 10:17