

BELGIC CONFESSION - ARTICLE 33

The Sacraments

We believe that our gracious God, on account of our weakness and infirmities, has ordained the sacraments for us to seal His promises to us, to be pledges of the good will and grace of God toward us, and to nourish and strengthen our faith, which He has joined to the Word of the gospel to better present to our senses both that which He signifies to us by His Word, and that which He works inwardly in our hearts, thereby assuring and confirming in us the salvation which He imparts to us. For they are visible signs and seals of an inward and invisible thing,¹ by means whereof God works in us by the power of the Holy Ghost. Therefore the signs are not in vain or insignificant, so as to deceive us. For Jesus Christ is the true object presented by them, without whom they would be nothing.²

Moreover, we are satisfied with the number of sacraments which Christ our Lord has instituted, which are two only, namely, the sacrament of baptism and the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ.³

Verses for Consideration

1. Romans 4:7–11; Genesis 9:13; Genesis 17:9–11
2. Colossians 2:11–12
3. Matthew 26:26–28; Matthew 28:19

Questions for Consideration

1. Why does the confession say that God ordained the sacraments “on account of our weakness and infirmities”? What do our weakness and infirmities have to do with it?

2. What is the purpose of the sacraments?

3. What (or who) is the object of these sacraments?