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# SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

**Christian Doctrine, Part 12: God Manifested (The Doctrine of the Sacraments)**
**Romans 6:1-8, John 6:35-58 - November 1, 2026**

## SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - What has greater lasting impact: major moments, or ongoing smaller inputs?
A little leaven leavens the whole lump. - Galatians 5:9 — "*Pedagogies of the Insignificant*"
"what might appear to be inconsequential micro habits are, in fact, disciplinary formations that reconfigure our relation to the wider world—indeed, they begin to make that world." - Smith

The "small, ongoing inputs" given to us by Jesus in the Scriptures are known as the Sacraments - **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper** (aka the Eucharist or Holy Communion)
Definitions: "Ordinances" v. "Sacraments"
"The Sacraments *remember, realize, and rehearse* the central promise of the gospel - that we died and rose with Christ, Jesus is with us, and he is coming again to take us into eternal fellowship with him in his kingdom." - Michael Bird

### A. BAPTISM (Key Theological Text: Romans 6:1-11)

- Paul often characterizes our salvation as "new life", indeed, Jesus and Peter call for us to be "born again". (John 3:3, 1 Peter 1:3, 23)
- Therefore, baptism vividly visualizes this death, burial, and resurrection - representing a powerful unity with Christ.
- Baptism, before the church, is our death, burial, rising, and living for Christ.

*Why do we not baptize infants?*

- No infants are baptized in the Bible, nor is the command to baptize infants given.
- The repeated pattern in Acts is that people are baptized after putting faith in the gospel. (Acts 2:38, 8:12, 8:37-38, 9:17-18, 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 16:33, 18:8)

*Why do we baptize by immersion (dunking under water)?*

- The Greek verb Βαπτίζω (*baptizo*) literally means, "to sink, or submerge"
- Jesus's baptism was by immersion. (Mark 1:10)
- In Romans 6, it is clear that Paul sees baptism as a type of burial.

### B. LORD'S SUPPER (Key Theological Text: John 6:35-58)

- The Bible *as a series of meals* eaten by God's people.
- In John 6, Jesus keeps referring to himself as "bread", and then goes so far to say that those who will be saved will be those who eat his flesh and drink his blood.
- *Institution* of the Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-20
- *Instruction* on the Lord's Supper - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

*What kind of meal is the Lord's Supper?*

1. A Meal of ***Togetherness***
   - The meal, like baptism, is meant to be observed only with the church family.
2. A Meal of ***Remembrance***
   - In every way, we are recalling the crucifixion of Jesus Christ when we take the bread/cup.
3. A Meal of ***Nourishment***
   - The meal is not simply symbolic. Over time, it spiritually shapes us into mature Christians.
4. A Meal of ***Repentance***
   - Paul warns against taking the Supper in an "unworthy manner", he means that we should be humbly examining ourselves and repenting of our sins.
   - All Christians who are willing to repent should take the supper! Don't skip it due to guilt!

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**SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. What are the small habits and inputs that are shaping you? Have you thought about it?
2. Are these inputs making you more or less like Jesus?
3. Is it important to differentiate between the terms “ordinance” and “sacrament”? Which word are you more familiar with?
4. Are the sacraments our actions? Or God’s actions?
5. Why is it important to talk about the sacraments in the church today?
6. What do you remember about your baptism? How are you able to worship God when you get to see new Christians get baptized?
7. If you have not been baptized, why not?
8. How important is the Lord’s Supper as a regular part of your ongoing Christian discipleship?
9. Why is it so important to observe the sacraments in the context of the local church? What do we all lose if these are practiced privately?