

Friends and Sacraments

“Meet the Friends,” part 1 of 4

Pastor Ken Redford

Welcome to today’s class! Whether you’re here as a prospective member to formally join the church, or if you’re here just to learn more about our history and distinctives, we are glad you’re here.

The Friends church, also known as the Quakers, began in the seventeenth century in England under the leadership of founder George Fox. Today, Friends number some 300,000 people around the world. Meridian Friends Church, founded in 1963, is joyfully affiliated with 40 other local Friends Churches in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho as part of the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church. Our yearly meeting is part of Evangelical Friends International. To learn more, visit www.meridianfriends.org and check out our “About us” tab.

What are sacraments?

A working definition: A sacrament is an _____ and visible sign of an _____ and invisible reality

The word “baptize” means to _____ and to _____, to take on the substance in which something is baptized.

The word “communion” describes the act of _____ and intimate companionship.

What Friends believe about the sacraments:

1. Early Friends concluded that sacraments can be _____, but they are not _____
2. Jesus’ requirements for immersion in Christ, and for deep fellowship with God, rather than being outward and ritual, are:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
3. The best way to outwardly point to God and His work in our lives, is to live a _____ and _____ life. “Let your life speak.”
4. If we have the _____, nothing else is _____; if we do not have the reality, nothing else will _____

Related scriptures:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 25:18-20

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11

(The Apostle Paul) “I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 1:14-17

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22-23

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” Colossians 2:16-17

“But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.” Hebrews 9:11-12

“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” Hebrews 10:1-4