

Faithful to the Word of God – An Overview of Systematic Theology

A Video Series by Dr. R.C. Sproul

Introduction to Session 42, “The Lord’s Supper”

Part 5 in a study of Ecclesiology, the study of the nature, function, and mission of the church

Preview

- Ecclesiology. From the Greek “ekklesia.” Those called out or chosen by God (Mat 16:18)
- The Sacraments are sacred and holy gifts (Latin *sacer*) that Christ has given to His church
- Anabaptists, or the “re-baptizers.” A group that emerged during the Reformation that championed believers’ baptism, among other things. The precursors of the Mennonite or Amish movements.

Watch video

- The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper has its roots in the Old Testament celebration of the Passover
 - The Passover helped God’s people to remember their deliverance from the angel of death (Exodus 12:1-14)
 - Jesus now institutes the Lord’s Supper for the church to remember the sacrifice of His death for our redemption (1 Cor 11:24-25)
- Because Jesus death is so central to our faith the celebration of the Lord’s Supper is of extreme importance, which has led to endless controversy, even among the Reformers
 - The central debate has to do with mode or the manner of the presence of Christ in the sacrament. The major views:
 - Transubstantiation: A miracle takes place during Mass. The bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. (Roman Catholic)
 - Consubstantiation: Christ is truly present in, with, and thru the elements, in His Divine nature. (Lutheran)
 - Real Presence: More than just a memorial, the elements are a means of grace that bring us into the presence of Christ (Reformed)
 - Memorialist: A remembrance or commemoration, a devotional act that brings spiritual nourishment (Baptists and most other evangelicals)

- The Lord's Supper relates to the past, present, and future
 - Remembering the historical event of the Lord's death
 - Meeting the person of the risen Christ in every celebration
 - An anticipation of the blessed future God has promised