

Academy: Ordinances pt.2 notes

3 Views:

1. Roman Catholic - complete unification between spiritual realities and physical signs
2. Anabaptist - complete separation between spiritual realities and physical signs
3. Historic Reformed - Unification, but distinguishes between spiritual realities and signs

Roman Catholic:

- View of Grace:
 - Grace is a substance that is infused into the soul through sacraments.
- Definition of Sacrament:
 - The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. the visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.
 - CANON VIII.-If any one saith, that by the said sacraments of the New Law grace is not conferred through the act performed, but that faith alone in the divine promise suffices for the obtaining of grace; let him be anathema.
- 7 Sacraments
 - Baptism
 - Washes away original sin
 - Confirmation
 - Perfects Baptismal grace
 - Acts 8:17
 - Eucharist (Lord's Supper)
 - The sum and summary of the Catholic faith
 - Penance
 - Forgiveness conferred by repentant acts
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Extreme Unction (anointing the sick)
 - Confers a special grace that heals spiritually and physically
 - James 5:14-15
 - Holy Orders
 - Confers a sacred power on the ordained which is a permanent seal.
 - Three degrees: episcopate (Bishop), presbyterate (Priest), diaconate (Deacon)
 - Matrimony
 - Holiness infused and delivered between spouses and to children
- Calvin's response
 - No biblical command for more than 2

- Apostolic practice does not make a sacrament
- Early church does not mention seven

Anabaptist:

- Anabaptists emphasized personal decision and moral perfection
- Sacraments were merely memorial practice
- God is not bound to earthly elements but works freely in hearts

Historic Reformed:

- Sacramental Union between the spiritual realities signified and the signs
 - Not a fusion of substances, but a relational act
- Sacraments are means of grace on their own, but the benefits are only effectual by faith in Christ.
- The Church is not a means of grace, but rather, stewards of the Word
- The Word administers the sacraments.
 - The only appropriate situation for the sacraments is on the Lord's Day