

THE SACRAMENTS

HOW A HUMAN *BECOMES* A CHILD OF GOD

“God became human so that we might become divine”

- St. Athanasius, the Father of Orthodoxy

Although we are all made in the image of God and born as God’s beloved children, the sacraments are sure and certain ways by which we receive and *live into* the gift of our beloved-ness and restore the image of God in which we are made.

Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace (p. 857)

The Two Great Sacraments

1) _____: sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ’s Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God

- *outward sign*: _____

- *inward grace*: union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God’s family, forgiveness of sins, new life in the Holy Spirit

- *requirement*: renounce Satan, repent of sins, and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

2) _____: sacrament commanded by Christ for continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again

- *outward sign*: _____

- *inward grace*: the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people and received by faith

- *requirement*: examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people

Other Sacramental Rites

3) _____: the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop (*read Isaiah 11:2*)

requirement: be baptized, sufficiently instructed in the Christian faith, penitent for sins and ready to affirm Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

4) _____: the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops

5) _____: the rite in which two people enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows

6) _____: the rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God’s grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body

7) _____: the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and grace of absolution

God does not limit Godself to these rites; they are patterns of countless ways by which God uses material things to reach out to us (p. 861)

Baptism is our entrance into the river that flows into the very heart of God; and we give ourselves over to the currents of the river when we participate in the _____, the sacrament that transforms our hearts to thrive in depths where our old heart of stone would drown. “There is and ought to be a real consciousness that more frequent Communion should involve a change of life, more collectedness in God...deeper consciousness of His Presence, more sacredness in our ordinary actions... and greater love for His Passion which we celebrate, and carry it about...in love.”

- Edward Pusey (1800 - 1882)

“God is always coming to you in the Sacrament of the _____. Meet and receive Him there with gratitude”

- Evelyn Underhill (1875 - 1941)