

The Sacraments

October 8, 2016

Catholic justification (through baptism) brings *habitual grace*, or a state of grace. *Actual grace*, or supernatural and temporary help against sin, is replenished through the sacraments.

The sacraments contain God's grace and channel it to the faithful. This grace is not irresistible or efficacious; individuals must cooperate with this grace, or be *properly disposed* to receive God's sanctifying grace through the sacraments. Sacraments are necessary for salvation (again, remember the Catholic understanding of "salvation," which confuses justification with sanctification). Pursuing the sacraments results in sanctification: preserving justifying grace and perfecting justifying grace.

Sacraments of Initiation

1. Baptism
 - a. For infants (born to Catholic families)
 - i. Washes away original sin
 - ii. Infuses justifying/sanctifying grace, beginning the process of salvation
 - iii. Is the "instrumental cause" of justification by faith—not faith exercised by the infant, but rather by the parents, family, and priest
 - iv. Joins the child to the Roman Catholic Church
 - b. For adults (converting to Catholicism)
 - i. Evangelism: must demonstrate cooperation with actual (prevenient) grace
 - ii. Instruction: must adhere to theological or confessional faith
 - iii. Purification and enlightenment: must demonstrate good works
2. Eucharist
3. Confirmation
 - a. A special strengthening by being sealed by the Holy Spirit
 - b. Usually around age 12 after a time of doctrinal instruction
 - c. Sometimes referred to as a "personal Pentecost"

Sacraments of Healing

4. Penance
 - a. Is a necessary "rejustification" for mortal sins, also called "reconciliation"
 - b. Consists of confession to a priest, contrition, judgment by the priest, absolution by the priest, and penance prescribed by the priest
5. Anointing of the sick (extreme unction)

Sacraments of service (optional)

6. Matrimony
 - a. Established as a sacrament because of the Vulgate's mistranslation of Ephesians 5:32, "*Sacramentum hoc magnum est*"
 - b. Held as a privilege to be bestowed by the church
7. Holy Orders
 - a. To the episcopate as bishops
 - b. To the presbyterate as priests
 - c. To the diaconate as deacons

