

Clarification of spiritual and legal sacraments

Spiritual Sacraments

1. Baptism

Requirements: Apostolic succession not required; universal.

Mechanism: Any believer may baptize; sacrament functions through proper invocation of the Trinity.

Effect: Initiates a person into the Church and conveys grace.

2. Confirmation

Requirements: Depends on Church Canon; Apostolic succession not required.

Mechanism: Authority derives from canonical recognition rather than Persona Christi.

Effect: Strengthens the baptized in faith and formally marks them as a member of the church community.

3. Eucharist (Real Presence)

Requirements: Only men may preside; Apostolic succession not required.

Mechanism: Christ is truly present in the bread and wine; the elements remain bread and wine, but His presence is infused within them.

Effect: Obedience to Christ's command to eat His flesh and drink His blood; conveys grace and nourishment to the believer.

Clarification: Maintains an objective sacramental reality without relying on transubstantiation or symbolic interpretation.

4. Reconciliation

Requirements: Apostolic succession and Persona Christi bypassed.

Mechanism: Forgiveness granted through perfect contrition and confession to a minister.

Effect: Spiritual forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

5. Holy Orders

Requirements: Men may be ordained as deacons, priests, and bishops; women may be ordained as deacons; does not confer apostolic succession.

Mechanism: Confers office and authority, establishing church hierarchy.

Effect: Organizes church governance and enables administration of other sacraments.

6. Anointing of the Sick

Requirements: Any believer may perform; Apostolic succession and Persona Christi bypassed.

Mechanism: Olive oil blessed by any male; hands laid on the sick while invoking the Holy Spirit; sins confessed with perfect contrition.

Effect: Provides strengthening, comfort, and forgiveness of sins.

Legal Sacraments

1. Matrimony

Requirements: Legal qualification to perform marriage; Apostolic succession and Persona Christi bypassed.

Mechanism: Civil/legal recognition substitutes for sacramental mediation.

Effect: Validates marital union; sacrament only functions if legally performed.

Implication: Many churches will effectively operate with six sacraments, as matrimony requires legal authority.

Hierarchy Consideration

High Church structure preferred: While technically any believer may perform these sacraments, priests and bishops are generally the primary ministers.

Purpose of hierarchy:

Ensures liturgical propriety and sacramental consistency.

Provides communal oversight and recognition.

Maintains order while allowing sacraments to function without apostolic succession.