

Church

A community centered around Jesus Christ and his mission, for the glory of God and the common good. A church is characterized by connection (to each other and God), care, ownership and accountability.

Acts 2.42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Ephesians 5

23 - Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

25 - Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Sacraments

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q92. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a holy regulation established by Christ, in which Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers by physical signs.

New City Catechism

Q.43: What Are the Sacraments or Ordinances?

The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by his death and resurrection. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

- **Tim Keller on sacraments and ordinances:**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism/what-are-the-sacraments-or-ordinances/>

Westminster Shorter Catechism for Kids

Q. 125. Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?

A. To distinguish his disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.

Q. 133. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The eating of bread and drinking of wine in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

Q. 134. What does the bread represent?

A. The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Q. 135. What does the wine represent?
A. The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

Q. 136. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?
A. Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.

Communion / The Lord's Supper

- a means of grace
- a picture & experience of the gospel
- e.g. ballerina / other forms of art

I. The Bible

Luke 22. 14-23

John 6

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.

I Cor. 11

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves
(see also v. 30-34)

key point for children (really all people): faith, repentance, self-examination

II. PCA - Book of Church Order¹

58-1. The Communion, or Supper of the Lord, is to be observed frequently; the stated times to be determined by the Session of each congregation, as it may judge most for edification.

58-4. On the day of the observance of the Lord's Supper, when the sermon is ended, the minister shall show:

- a. That this is an ordinance of Christ; by reading the words of institution, either from one of the Evangelists, or from 1 Corinthians 11, which, as to him may appear expedient, he may explain and apply;
- b. That it is to be observed in remembrance of Christ, to show forth His death till He come; that it is of inestimable benefit, to strengthen His people against sin; to support them under troubles; to encourage and quicken them in duty; to inspire them with love and zeal; to increase their faith, and holy resolution; and to beget peace of conscience, and comfortable hopes of eternal life.

Since, by our Lord's appointment, this Sacrament sets forth the Communion of Saints, the minister, at the discretion of the Session, before the observance begins, may either invite all those who profess the true

¹ the Constitution of the PCA is made up of: The Bible, Westminster Confession of Faith, & Book of Church Order

religion, and are communicants in good standing in any evangelical church², to participate in the ordinance; or may invite those who have been approved by the Session, after having given indication of their desire to participate³. It is proper also to give a special invitation to non-communicants to remain during the service.

The following are taken from the Presbyterian Church in America's Book of Church Order 57-5:

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The following are paraphrased *FOR CHILDREN*, from BCO 57-5, by Brent Harriman:

1. What is sin? Do you believe that you are a sinner, and therefore you sin?
2. Do you believe in Jesus? Do you know that he died, on the cross, for your sins? Do you believe that he is your only hope?
3. Will you try to live like Jesus? To love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? And love others as you love yourself? Will you seek to grow in your relationship with him through the means of grace (prayer, bible study, fellowship, church, sacraments) - as best you can?
4. Do you want to be part of our church? Will you help the church by attending with your parents, welcoming others, caring for others and helping serve at church?
5. Do you want me to be your pastor? Do you trust the other leaders in our church to show us the way to Jesus?

² *not a Presbyterian table, not Resurrection Knoxville's table, but the Lord's table*

³ this refers to welcoming someone to the table, prior to formally joining