

the ideals of the Roman army. If 'sacrament' were used in the way it was originally used, it would be a good word to specify both baptism and the Lord's Supper. But to avoid being misunderstood as to our meaning of these symbols, it might be more appropriate to call baptism and the Lord's Supper 'symbols of our Christian faith.' "

-- *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists* Volume I (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1958), p. 106.

b. Reformed Definition

The following questions and answers are quoted from the *Westminster Larger Catechism*:

Q. 154. "What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?"

A. "The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation."

Q. 161 "How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?"

A. "The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not by any power in themselves, or any virtue derived from the piety or intention of him by whom they are administered, but only by the working of the Holy Ghost, and the blessing of Christ, by whom they are instituted."

Q. 162. "What is a sacrament?"

A. "A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation, to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another, and to distinguish them from those that are without."

Q. 163. "What are the parts of a sacrament?"

A. "The parts of a sacrament are two; the one an outward and sensible sign, used according to Christ's own appointment; the other an inward and spiritual grace thereby signified."

The *Second Helvetic Confession*, Chapter 19, states:

"Sacraments are mystical symbols, or holy rites, or sacred actions, ordained by God himself, consisting of his Word, of outward signs, and of things signified: whereby he keeps in continual memory, and recalls to mind, in his Church, his great benefits bestowed upon man; and whereby he seals up his promises, and outwardly represents, and, as it were, offers unto our sight those things which inwardly he