

## Proclamation, Sacraments, and Ministry

## Proclamation of Word (preaching) 207-211

- Human act through which Spirit conveys Word of God
- Witness to the truth
- Based on biblical texts, re-presenting its message after serious study
- Uses language
- Simple core is good news of God's infinite, unexpected grace
- Takes place in particular context

## What are Sacraments (211-214)

- "visible signs of an invisible grace"
- Through middle ages and in Roman Catholicism & Eastern Orthodoxy there are seven sacraments
  - Baptism (also accepted by Protestants)
  - Confirmation
  - Eucharist (also accepted by Protestants)
  - Penance
  - Ordination
  - Marriage
  - Anointing of sick

## What are Sacraments (cont.)

- Tension between two emphases:
  - Objective reality of God's grace
  - Subjective experience of our faith response
- Both are important for balanced appreciation of all that occurs in sacrament
- Sacraments are not separable from proclamation of Word
  - Word acted out...

## Baptism (214-220)

- Authorization of baptism is found in the command and act of Jesus
- Images of baptism include
  - Dying and rising with Christ
  - Washing away of sin
  - Rebirth by Spirit
  - Incorporation into body of Christ
  - Sign of God's coming reign

## Infant Baptism?

- Do we emphasize what God does and initiates or human response?
  - God's gracious, free activity or
  - Our free, responsible commitment
- Migliore understands the issue not as infant vs. adult, but permissibility of infant baptism

## Arguments for Permissibility of Infant Baptism (217-219)

- Declares sovereign, gracious initiative
- Sign of human solidarity (not limited by human distinctions such as age)
- Sign of covenantal responsibility of community of faith, especially parents, local church (godparents)

## Lord's Supper (Eucharist) (220-224)

- Baptism is sacrament of the foundation of Christian life and Eucharist is the sacrament of sustaining Christian life
- Brings together past, present, and future
  - Remembering what Christ did
  - Joining in communion now
  - Anticipating messianic banquet in reign of God



## Nature of Christ's Presence in Lord's Supper

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- Transubstantiation
- Consubstantiation
- Reformed view of real presence in whole eucharistic action rather than elements
- Memorialist view



## Ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament (226-230)

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- All Christians are ministers (priesthood of believers)
  - Some are called to be ordained for special service to Word and Sacrament
- Inward and Outward aspects of calling
  - Personal sense of God's direction
  - Affirmation, even call, of community of faith
- Change of task, not a change of being
- Authorized service not authoritarian
- Inclusive of all whom the Spirit has gifted
  - Human distinctions like gender are irrelevant