

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

Ecclesiology 2: Church Government Ordinances (Sacraments), Part 1

2

Forms of Church Government

- Episcopal—authority resides in the office of bishop which is distinct from elder
 - Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican
- Presbyterian—authority is with the rule of assemblies of presbyters (elders).
 - Hierarchy = Local church elders → presbytery → synod → general assembly
- Congregational—autonomous authority resides in local church

3

Congregational Forms

- No government—not supported Scripturally
- Single elder authority—not supported Scripturally (with the exception of developing churches such as Crete)
- Elder Led, Congregational Authority
- Pure Democracy
- Multiple Elder Rule

4

Reasons for Elder Rule

- Church at Antioch (Acts 11:27-30)
- Paul appointed multiple elders in each church (Acts 14:23)
- Church at Ephesus (Acts 20:17-38)
- Church at Thessalonica (1 Thess 5:12-13)
- Church at Philippi (Phil 1:1)
- Acts 21:18; 1 Tim 4:14; 1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-5; James 5:14; Heb 13:17.

5

Ordinances (Sacraments)

Part 1: Definitions and History

- Sacrament - Latin *sacramentum*—
 - Infers mystery and almost magical power
- Ordinance - Latin *ordo*- “row, order”
 - Infers ordained by the Lord as symbols
- Purpose:
 - Roman Catholics = infuse grace for salvation
 - Many Protestants = “means of grace” w/faith
 - Baptist and other Protestants = symbol of grace already received

6

Defining "Sacrament" in History

- Little discussion first few centuries
- Augustine (354-430) first to discuss
 - Sign of a sacred thing
- Hugh of St. Victor (died 1142)
 - Physical element, similarity, authorized. Power
- Peter Lombard (died 1164)–first to define seven sacraments now in Rom Catholicism

7

Baptism in History

- Patristic Era (early church fathers)
 - Remission of sins
 - Regeneration
 - Infant baptism
- Middle Ages
 - Means of grace
 - Rom Cath only authorized agent
 - Infant baptism

8

Eucharist (Lord's Table) in History

- Patristic Era (early church fathers)
 - Some form of belief in "real presence" in the Eucharist
- Middle Ages
 - Radbertus (790-860)– "real presence"
 - Ratramnus -symbols of remembrance but a sacrificial meal
- Transubstantiation - founded on Aristotle's concept of "substance" and "accident"

9

Eucharist (Lord's Table) in History

- Transubstantiation - affirmed at Fourth Lateran Council of 1215

"By the consecration of the bread and wine, a conversion (or change) is made of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of His blood; which conversion is, by the holy Catholic Church, suitably and properly called Transubstantiation."

10

Reformers

- Reformers reevaluated Catholic understanding
- Two sacraments only in Scripture
- Rejected transubstantiation
- Did not agree on the primary meaning
- Differing views on baptism
 - Luther, Zwingli, Calvin maintained infant baptism while Anabaptist rejected infant baptism

11
