**Sacraments (a one week quick introduction)**

1. In the sacraments, the fundamental direction is God🡪us. That’s what makes them a means of grace.
2. The sacraments take place in community. Sanctification is a community project.

**Baptism**

Definition from J.I. Packer: Christian baptism, which has the form of a ceremonial washing (like John's pre-Christian baptism), is a sign from God that signifies inward cleansing and remission of sins (Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:25-27), Spirit-wrought regeneration and new life (Titus 3:5), and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit as God's seal testifying and guaranteeing that one will be kept safe in Christ forever (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13-14). Baptism carries these meanings because first and fundamentally it signifies union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-7; Col. 2:11-12); and this union with Christ is the source of every element in our salvation (1 John 5:11-12). Receiving the sign in faith assures the persons baptized that God's gift of new life in Christ is freely given to them. At the same time, it commits them to live henceforth in a new way as committed disciples of Jesus. Baptism signifies a watershed point in a human life because it signifies a new-creational engrafting into Christ's risen life.

**The sacraments signify and seal the promises of the gospel.**

1. Baptism is a sign and seal from God to us of the washing away of sins and the new life we have in Him (i.e. the gospel!). NOTE: The following texts are not necessarily (they may be, but not *necessarily*) referring to the act of baptism, but to what baptism represents.
   1. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
   2. **Titus 3:5**
   3. **Ephesians 5:25-27**

**Lord’s Supper**

Quote from J.I. Packer: Calvin held that though the bread and wine remained unchanged (he agreed with Zwingli that the is of "this is my body...my blood" means "represents," not "constitutes"), Christ through the Spirit grants worshippers true fellowship with himself in heaven (Heb 12:22-24) in a way that is glorious and very real, though indescribable. Christ in this sign perceived through the senses sets forth the grace of God in Christ and the blessings of his covenant. They communicate, seal, and confirm possession of those blessings to believers, who by responsively receiving the sacraments give expression to their faith and allegiance. In them God "remembers" his covenant toward us in Christ and does not give us the just wrath we deserve. The Supper is rightly viewed as a means of grace. The efficacy of the sacraments ...resides not in the faith or virtue of the minister but in the faithfulness of God. As the preaching of the Word makes the gospel audible, so the sacraments make it visible, and the Holy Spirit stirs up faith by both means.

1. The Lord’s Supper is a sign and seal of the redemption we have in Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and our nourishment upon the person and work of Jesus Christ.
   1. **Matthew 26:26-27**
   2. **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**
   3. **Hebrews 12:22-24**