

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF THE SACRAMENTS

The sacraments celebrated by the Church are signs of grace that make a deeper reality present to us. One reality we encounter through the sacraments is Christ's presence in the Church community, his Body. This recognition of Christ's presence in the community should lead to a stronger awareness of being sent on mission to engage in love-inspired action in the world.

As Pope Benedict XVI notes in *Deus Caritas Est* (God Is Love), the celebration of the sacraments and the ministry of love are "inseparable." Love in action, he says, is "an indispensable expression" of the Church's being (no. 25).

– USCCB Sacraments and Social Mission Living the Gospel, Being Disciples

One of the greatest myths and misconceptions about our Catholic faith is that the seven sacraments are not found anywhere in Scripture. Let's get right to the point: this is an absolutely false assertion.

The sacraments were instituted by Jesus, and they were then formally carried out by His apostles and handed on to their successors, the bishops. All of the sacraments have a clear biblical basis, intrinsically and implicitly. A sacrament is defined as "an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to bring grace. Always remember that the Catholic Church is founded on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The two work hand-in-hand to make known to us the fullness of God's revelation, through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, the need to adhere to both Scripture and Tradition is itself, a biblical truth and Scriptural command, "*Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours*" (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Below are some of the Scriptural references we use when giving a Scriptural basis for the Catholic sacraments.

– Courtesy of the GreatAdventureOnline.com

The following scriptures focus on the Sacrament of Matrimony. In Christian marriage, spouses model the love and self-gift of Christ. By giving of themselves and serving one another, their family, and community, they help one another live out Christ's call to discipleship, love, and service. Marriage provides a foundation for a family committed to community, solidarity, and Jesus' mission in the world.



MATRIMONY *United in Love, Strengthened for Service*

Old Testament

- Genesis 1:26-28, 31 – Male and female he created them.
- Genesis 2: 18-24 – And they will be tow in one flesh.
- Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67 – Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.
- Tobit 7: 9-10, 11-15 – May God join you together and fill you with his blessings.
- Tobit 8:5-7 May God bring us to old age together.
- Song of Songs (Sg) 2:8-10, 14, 16, 8:6-7 – For love is as strong as death.
- Sirach 26: 1-4,13-16 – Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.
- Jeremiah 31:31-32, 33-34 – I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah.

New Testament

- Romans 8: 31-35; 37-39 – Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
- Romans 12:1-2, 9-18, or 12:1-2, 9-13 – Offer to God your bodies as a living and hole sacrifice, truly pleasing to him.
- 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 – Your body is a temple of the Spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8 – If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.
- Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 or 5:2, 25-32 – This mystery has many implications, and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.
- Colossians 3:12-17 – Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.
- 1 Peter 3:1-9 – You should agree with one another, be sympathetic and love the brothers.
- 1 John 3:18-24 – Our love is to be something real and active.
- 1 John 4:7-12 – God is love.
- Revelation 19:1, 5-9 – Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Gospels

- Matthew 5:1-12 – Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
- Matthew 5:13-16 – You are the light of the world.
- Matthew 7:21, 24-29; or 7:21, 24-25 – He built his house on rock.
- Matthew 19:3-6 – So then, what God has united, man must not divide.
- Matthew 22:35-40 – This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is similar to it.
- Mark 10: 6-9 – They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.
- John 2: 1-11 – This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee.
- John 15:9-12 – Remain in my love.
- John 15:12-16 – This is my commandment: love one another.
- John 17:20-26 or 17:20-23 – May they be completely one.