



# John Calvin's *Institutes in the Christian Religion* (1541)

A PPA Seminar: Winter/Spring 2018

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## **Study 14: Chapters Ten, Eleven, and Twelve: The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper- Read pgs. 561-667**

*"[A Sacrament] is an outward sign by which our Lord represents and testifies His goodwill toward us, in order to sustain and strengthen the weakness of our faith ... Because we are unable to fly high enough to draw near to God, He has ordained sacraments for us like ladders." (Institutes, 1541, pg. 561; 1559, 4.14.8).*

*Prayer: "Almighty God, you have been pleased to prescribe a rule for us by which we may truly and purely worship you. Grant that we may follow this plain rule, and never indulge our own imaginations nor trifle with you through our own fancies or through foolish wisdom of our flesh. May we continue in your law and in the doctrine your only begotten Son, our Lord, has delivered to us..."*

### **Scripture Reading:**

1. In your own words, define what a sacrament is. Compare your definition with Augustine and Calvin's definition. How do sacraments supplement God's Word? How is the Holy Spirit pleased to use the sacraments? [pgs. 561-77].
2. How is Christ taught and received in the sacraments? Give a few scriptures to support your answer. How are the sacraments in the Old Covenant and New Covenant *similar*? How are they *different*? [pgs. 574-77]
3. What does baptism signify? Explain from Scripture. What are the benefits of baptism? Would you say that baptism saves? Would you say that baptism sanctifies? Explain. [pgs. 579-90, 602-609]
4. Should infants be baptized? Why, or why not? In your own words, give Calvin's explanation of infant baptism with the scriptures he uses to support his teaching. Are there any advantages to infant baptism? What are they? After studying Calvin, if you were (are) a parent, would you make sure that your infants were (are) baptized? Why, or why not? [pgs. 591-601]

5. What are the common objections against infant baptism? List 3 of the common objections. Are these scriptural? Whether you agree or disagree, what is the wisdom you can learn from Calvin's teaching and even the concerned objections against infant baptism? Are their consequences for neglecting infant baptism? What are they? [pgs. 606-20]
  
6. What does the Lord's Supper signify and seal to the believer? What is the distinction between *signify* and *seal*? What does God do in the Lord's Supper? What does the believer do in the supper? List a few ways that the Lord's Supper "serves our faith"? [pgs. 623-27]
  
7. Summarize in your own words Rome's doctrine of transubstantiation. Is this a scriptural doctrine? Why, or why not? Support your answers from scripture. Why is the Roman Mass a "*pestilential error*"? Do you agree with this? Why, or why not? [pgs. 627-40, 652-63]
  
8. How is Christ present in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper? Why is it impossible for Jesus Christ to be physically present in the Lord's Supper? Explain. How does this again show Calvin's dependence upon Scripture and biblical confessions of the church? [pgs. 637-43]
  
9. *Who should come* to the Lord's Supper? *Who should not come*? Why would we want to keep anyone from coming to the sacrament? *How should one come* to the sacrament? [pgs. 645-48]
  
10. Argue for the frequent observance of the Lord's Supper both from Calvin and Scripture. [pgs. 649-50]