

Sacraments & Sacramentals

by Bill Crews

The Roman Catholic Church practices seven “sacraments.” She defines a sacrament as “*a visible or sensible sign instituted by Jesus Christ, by which invisible grace and inward sanctification are communicated to our souls.*” (***Deharbe’s Complete Catechism, p. 249***). Catholicism’s seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist (their version of the Lord’s Supper; also called “mass”), Penance, Extreme Unction (last anointing or rites), Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

The Roman Catholic Church also has “sacramentals” and teaches that these were appointed by the church “*for the Divine Service, or for our own pious use.*” Holy Water, Oil, Salt, Bread, Wine, Palms, Altars, Chalices, Exorcisms, Blessings and Consecrations are listed as sacramentals.

The New Testament church, according to the inspired New Testament record, had neither sacraments nor sacramentals. Neither the words nor the ideas behind them are supported by the Scriptures. Many Protestant churches insist upon referring to the Lord’s Supper and baptism as “sacraments,” but they must use the Roman Catholic Church, not Christ or the apostles, as their authority for this.

EDITOR’S NOTE: A billboard on the corner of I-29 & 72nd Street here in Kansas City advertises the Catholic Radio Channel (1090 AM) and the “Holy Eucharist” with the words: “It’s not a symbol, it’s a sacrament.” Thus the words of Bill Crews in this article are much needed to teach those who would listen to what God’s Word *really* says.

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