

# 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 Reconciliation. Through the Sacrament of Penance, God offers mercy and forgiveness. In response to this gift, we are called to become vehicles of Christ's love, making amends and restoring justice and the bonds that have been broken. Healed and forgiven, we are sent to work for peace, justice, and love in our communities and world.



# **RECONCILIATION** *Reconciled to Right Relationship, Called to Heal and Restore*

## **Old Testament**

- Isaiah 55:6-9 – Turn back to the Lord God who is rich in forgiving.
- Ezekiel 18:21-23, 30-32 – Repent, renounce all your sin.
- Ezekiel 33:11 – I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord, but to turn to me and live.
- Joel 2:12-18 – Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn.

## **Gospel**

- Matthew 9:1-8 – They praised God for giving such power to men.
- Matthew 18:18 – “Whatever you bind and loose on earth, so it is in heaven.”
- Mark 1:1-8, 14-15 – “The kingdom of God is near; repent and believe the Good News!”
- Mark 12:29-31 – “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”
- Luke 7:36-50 – Her many sins are forgiven because she has loved much.
- Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 – It was only right we should celebrate and rejoice because your brother here was dead and has come to life.
- Luke 24:46-48 – Jesus sent his apostles to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- John 3:1-10 – “The inhabitants of Nineveh have turned away from their evil ways.”
- John 20:19-23 – “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them”

## **New Testament**

- Romans 6:2-4, 12-14 – Consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 – “And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation.”
- James 5:13-15 – “If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.”
- 1 John 1:5-2:2 – The blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.
- Revelations 1:5 – Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, first-born from the dead; you have loved us and washed away our sins in your blood.