

GRACE GROUP QUESTIONS

October 11, 2017

Questions for Lesson 5 - Wednesday, October 4

On Being Presbyterian by Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

“What in the World Is the Church?” and “Sacraments”

1. What do you think the Westminster Confession of Faith meant when it confessed that outside the church “there is no ordinary possibility of salvation” (WCF 25.2)? Does this suggest a higher view of the church than is common today? Do you agree with the Confession’s claim?
2. Some people criticize the Confession’s understanding of a universal church “which is invisible to us,” by mocking the possibility of having an invisible church with invisible members feasting on an invisible sacrament. How does this caricature represent a radical misunderstanding of the confessional and biblical point?
3. What are some of the ramifications that follow from the belief that children of believing parents are members of the visible church? Does this belief make the argument for “household baptisms” easier to sustain?
4. Think about your religious upbringing prior to encountering Presbyterianism. As you consider Presbyterian beliefs about the sacraments, how does your prior religious life cause you to react to this chapter?
5. How do sacraments “work”? What do we mean when we talk about a “sacramental union” between the sign and the spirituality reality? Who is the “spiritual reality” communicated by the sacrament?
6. How does the “household logic” of the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, provide a strong rationale for household (hence, infant) baptism?
7. What do Presbyterians believe happens in the Lord’s Supper? How do we feed spiritually upon Christ and all his benefits?”



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church