



*Introduction*  
*to*  
*THE SACRAMENTS*  
*of the*  
*Coptic Orthodox Church*





# *SALVATION*



1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

**“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...”**





# I. What does the Word Sacrament Mean ?



- **Sacramentum** (Latin)
  - to make holy
- **Mysterion** (Greek)
  - incomprehensible
  - unknowable
  - secret





## II. What is a Sacrament ?



1. An invisible **grace** of the Holy Spirit that is received through a *visible or audible act / physical material*.
2. The **work** of the Holy Spirit in us through the Sacraments, giving us His gifts, blessings and comfort, and guidance to **Salvation!!!**

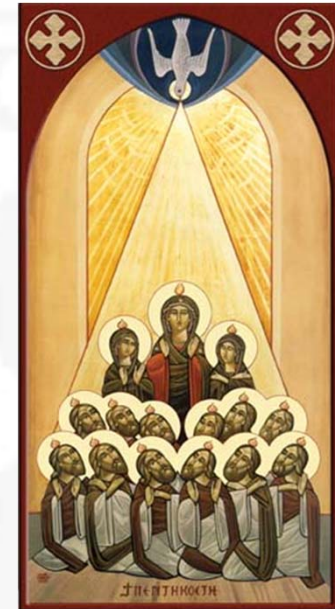




# *What are the Seven Sacraments?*



1. Baptism
2. Chrismation
3. Reconciliation
4. Eucharist
5. Matrimony
6. Priesthood
7. Holy Unction of the Sick





# Redemptive Vs. Non-Redemptive Sacraments



## • Redemptive Sacraments (necessary for salvation)

- 1- **Baptism** John 3:3-5, Acts 8:35 -38, Romans 6:3-5, Mark 16:16
- 2- **Chrismation** Acts 8:14-17, Acts 19:1-6, John 2:20,27
- 3- **Reconciliation** Luke 13:3, Matthew 3:2
- 4- **Eucharist** John 6:53-58



## • Non-Redemptive Sacraments

- 5. Matrimony
- 6. Priesthood
- 7. Holy Unction of the Sick



# Visible Sign & Invisible Grace?



Sacrament	1. Physical Material	2. Invisible Grace
<b>Baptism</b>	Water	Receive rebirth & new nature
<b>Chrismation</b>	Oil of Myron	Receive the Holy Spirit
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Verbal Absolution	Forgiveness of sins
<b>Eucharist</b>	Bread and Wine Liturgical Prayers	True Body & Blood of the Lord Union with the Lord Forgiveness of Sins Eternal Life
<b>Unction of sick</b>	Oil	Receive physical and spiritual healing
<b>Holy Matrimony</b>	Bride and Groom Liturgical Prayers	The Holy Spirit comes upon them & unites the couple.
<b>Holy Priesthood</b>	The Man Laying on of the Hands	Gains the grace for administering Sacraments and authority to preside over Church matters.





## II. What makes a Sacrament Valid?



- 1. **The Proper Ritual !!!** (method & material)
  - Baptism – water → oil
  - Eucharist- Bread → steak
- 2. **A Canonically Ordained Orthodox Priest!!**
  - A man who has the authority of the Priesthood given to him by the laying on of hands
  - Acts as an agent of God by the power of the Holy Spirit to do the sacramental work of the Church among the Body of Christ
  - Liturgical prayers, Give blessings, Confessions
- **Didascalia** Section 7, X. (a Church Document written by the Apostles during the Council of Jerusalem Acts 15 addressing Church order)
  - “[we neither permit *women nor*] the *laity* to perform any of the offices belonging to the priesthood; as, for instance, neither the **sacrifice (Liturgy)**, nor **baptism**, nor the **laying on of hands (priesthood)**, nor the blessing, whether the smaller or the greater: for “*no one takes this honor to himself, but he that is called of God.*” [Heb. 5:12] For such sacred offices are conferred by the laying on of the hands of the Bishop. But a person to whom such an office is not committed, but he seizes upon it for himself, he shall undergo the punishment of Uzziah.”







- **19** Then Uzziah became furious; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. **20** And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he *was* leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.



- **21** King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD.

**2 Chronicles 26:19-21**





# *Why do we need Sacraments?*



- MEANS OF OUR SALVATION
- Points of Contact between God and Man
- The way man receives God's Grace
- It is a personal experience with the Holy Trinity
- It is the taste of the Heavenly Life





# Categories of Sacraments?

## Sacraments are Spiritual Medicine

- Disease = sin
- Physician = Our Lord Jesus Christ working through the Fathers the Priests (assistants)
- Hospital = Church
  - *“Are you a sinner? Go to the Church which is a hospital...”*  
St. John Chrysostom
- Examination = confession
- Diagnosis with these 3 types of medications...

## 3 types of Sacraments

- **Preventive:** to Prevent corruption and sin
- **Curative:** To Cure corruption and sin
- **Supplementary:** To give us strength to overcome sin





# Categories of Sacraments?



## **PREVENTIVE Sacraments**

- **Chrismation:** the indwelling of the Holy Spirit fortifies us against sin and evil; gives victory in spiritual struggle.
- **Matrimony:** protects the couple from falling into lust.

## **CURATIVE Sacraments**

- **Baptism:** cure from corrupted nature we inherited from Adam and Eve
- **Reconciliation:** cures the sin: through absolution & offering absolutions to sin.
- **Unction:** cure for physical and spiritual illness.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY Sacraments**

- **Eucharist:** gives us power to help us in overcoming evil.
- **Priesthood:** gives the Priest grace and Authority to teach the Flock of Christ on how to live the Holy and pleasing life to God.





# *Sacraments*

- 1. All Sacraments are instituted by Christ Himself !!!





**Questions?**

