

CouplesInBloom.com – The Missing Sacrament

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Followers of Jesus Christ in the first century were mostly Greek-speaking Jews, but Latin overtook Greek in the western half of the Roman Empire by the end of the second century. When second century theologians translated the Bible from Greek to Latin, they found that no Latin word existed for the Greek word *mystery*, whose definition was *knowledge that was once unclear, but now is revealed*. An example of this was what the ancient church (and many to this day) called the mystery of our faith: *Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again*; the Old Testament previously taught this but it wasn't clearly revealed until the life of Jesus Christ, as seen in the New Testament.

The theologians noticed the Roman army had a process called *Sacramentum Militum*, in which soldiers were branded behind the ear with the number of their unit, and swore allegiance to the military. This mark indicated both privilege and responsibility, which the theologians believed was close to the Biblical definition of Christianity. Part of this sacramentum stated, *“But the soldiers swear that they shall faithfully execute all that the emperor commands, that they shall never desert the service, and that they shall not seek to avoid death for the Roman republic!”* Revelation 12:11 ⇨ shows similar commitment. The theologians used the word sacrament(s), although most translations today do not.

By the Reformation in the 16th century, sacraments were normal ‘church talk’. There even arose some disagreement of what sacraments were; the Catholic church had seven but the Protestant church had only two (Baptism and Communion), stating sacraments had to apply to all Christians, where the other 5 may not (e.g. marriage, ordination, etc.).

In the 21st century, the Barna Group surveyed Christians and published a report about discipleship: *Jesus last command* to Christians before returning to Heaven. Overall, only 1 in 5 Christians are involved in discipleship, and less than 1% of pastors said churches are discipling very well, and 60% said churches are not discipling too well. **This problem is not new, as making disciples was not part of 2nd century theologians or 16th century reformers works.** Even though one of the ‘three great principles’ of the Reformation was ‘the priesthood of the believer’, it focused on personal relationship with God to the neglect of *Christians obeying Jesus clear commands to share God’s love*.

Most Christians are stopping Christianity by not making disciples. Accepting the Christian Gospel from someone else yet rejecting to share that very process for someone else is pandemic hypocrisy, which Biblically may self-damn such ‘Christians’ to hell (God knows). The Bible does **NOT** say, ‘believe in Jesus and you’re saved’; satan and demons believe in Jesus ⇨ James 2:19. The Bible repeatedly says, “believe in the Lord(ship) Jesus and you’re saved.” Christianity is *relationship* with God as defined by God. It is *intimate, wonderful,* and **not a loathsome duty** as some churches falsely teach.

Sharing Jesus is joyful overflow of our heart ... IF Jesus is indeed Lord there. Otherwise, making disciples is a **Missing Sacrament**, as is with most users of the Christian nametag. **Most people** won't choose Heaven ⇨ Matthew 7:13-14. **Tell others about God’s love! ♥**