

# Mysterious Encounters: Unveiling the Power of the Sacraments

## Week 1: The Catholic Sacramental Worldview

1. Worldview
  - a. Where did we come from?
  - b. Why are we here?
2. Popular worldviews
  - a. Gnosticism
  - b. Deism
  - c. Materialism
3. Catholic sacramental worldview: Genesis 1:26-31
4. Worldview shapes all aspects of Catholic teaching:
  - a. Doctrine (on Christ, the Church, Mary, the communion of saints)
  - b. Morals (Sex outside marriage, contraception, abortion, reproductive technologies, divorce, same-sex marriage, transgenderism)
5. The sacraments and God's plan of salvation
6. Covenant
  - a. Sacrament (*Sacramentum*): Oath creating familial bonds
  - b. Mystery (*Mysterion*): Something that is hidden
7. Elements of a sacrament
  - a. Form

- b. Matter
  - c. Effects
  - d. Responsibilities
8. Sacraments in the age of the Church
- a. Visible signs
  - b. Invisible reality (efficacious grace)
  - c. Proper disposition
  - d. Necessary for salvation?
    - i. John 3:1-7
    - ii. John 6:51-58
9. Types of Christian sacraments
- a. Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
  - b. Sacraments of healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
  - c. Sacraments at the service of the Church: Matrimony, Holy Orders
10. Discussion
- a. What aspects of our culture today stand in stark contrast with the Catholic sacramental worldview?
  - b. How would you explain to someone the realism of the sacraments (i.e. that they aren't merely symbolic ceremonies)?
  - c. What have the sacraments meant in your life?