

BC 35- 2 –Lord’s Supper: Overestimated and Underestimated

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Last time you heard **about the purpose of the Lord’s Supper, how you were able to receive the benefits of the Lord’s Supper** (by faith), and **what the elements of the Lord’s Supper were** (bread and wine). But there are some serious errors many teach regarding the Lord’s Supper. We briefly touched on those errors last week. We will focus on them today.

Our headings are:

Transubstantiation in the Lord’s Supper

Overestimation of the Lord’s Supper

Underestimation of the Lord’s Supper

Our goals are: That **you will properly view the Lord’s Supper, that you will receive its benefits, and that you will then be strengthened to fight for the kingdom.**

Transubstantiation in the Lord’s Supper

In the meantime we err not when we say that what is eaten and drunk by **us is the proper and natural body and the proper blood of Christ**. But the manner of our partaking of the same is not by the mouth, but by the spirit through faith. Thus, then, though Christ always sits at the right hand of His Father in the heavens, yet does He not therefore cease to make us partakers of Himself by faith. This feast is a spiritual table, at which Christ communicates Himself with all His benefits to us, and gives us there to enjoy both Himself and the merits of His sufferings and death: nourishing, strengthening, and comforting our poor comfortless souls by the eating of His flesh, quickening and refreshing them by the drinking of His blood

1. The Lord’s Supper was given to remember Christ’s death and is a nourishment to the Christian’s soul.

1Corinthians 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; **this is My body** which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 ... "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

But let’s talk about one major error: The doctrine of Transubstantiation.

2. Transubstantiation is the Roman Catholic teaching that the bread and the wine of the Lord’s Supper become the real blood and body of the Lord.

So Roman Catholics believe they are eating real flesh and drinking real blood!

3. Why is transubstantiation wrong?

a. Legal. Cannibalism is immoral, criminal, and disallowed.

b. Evidential. There is no biblical evidence of eating Christ’s body and drinking Christ’s blood is lacking in Scripture.

John 6: 35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 50 "This is the **bread which comes down from heaven**, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone **eats of this bread, he will live forever**; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Based on this text, who ate Jesus' body and drank his literal blood? None. But if you have to eat his body and drink his blood to be saved, **does that mean that none then can be saved** since no one can drink his blood? More, how can physical flesh give eternal life?

This is theological malpractice. Further, since Jesus is not physically present, how can you eat him today?

c. Theological. When you say you eat the crucified body of Christ you are really saying you accept with a believing heart the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, and you are saying you accept with a believing heart your sins have been removed and you are saying you accept with a believing heart you have eternal life. Your soul digests this truth. You don't digest Christ's body.

d. Logical. Jesus showed he was not talking about people literally eating his body and drinking his blood, that the elements (bread and wine) are not supernaturally changed into the real body and blood of the Lord, as RC's teach.

Matthew 26: 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body.**" 27 Then **He took the cup, and gave thanks**, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to you, **I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**"

The Lord **compares the wine he was drinking with what he would drink again...after his resurrection.** He would eat and drink real food after his resurrection. And surely he would **not drink his own blood.** **Look again,** the Apostle Paul pointed out that those who were drinking too much in church were becoming drunk. Wasn't he literally reminding his readers that **they were drinking alcohol**, not human blood? **Even the blood of animals had to be drained** when the animal was killed.

1Corinthians 10:2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock** that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Can you conclude that the Israelites drank Jesus? **Logically this argument made no sense.**

4. How then do we explain language that seems to suggest that we eat the literal body and drink the literal blood of Jesus Christ?

Clear passages must interpret unclear passages. So look at the Apostle Paul's language regarding the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it **not the communion of the body of Christ?** 17 For we, though many, **are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.**

Apostle Paul called the elements the "body and blood" of the Lord to **show strong symbolic connection between the sign (Lord's Supper) and the thing signified (Jesus Christ)**. You might say: "He is a giant." You don't mean that the man is literally a 9 foot "giant." You mean the man is big and tall. Or you might say: "This lady is superwoman," not because she is, but because she can do a lot!

Overestimation of the Lord's Supper

Further, though **the sacraments are connected with the thing signified** nevertheless both are not received by all men. The ungodly indeed receives the sacrament to his condemnation, but he does not receive the truth of the sacrament, even as Judas and Simon the sorcerer both indeed received the sacrament but not Christ who was signified by it, of whom believers only are made partakers.

Therefore we reject all mixtures and damnable inventions which men have added unto and blended with the sacraments, as profanations of them; and affirm that we ought to rest satisfied with the **ordinance which Christ and His apostles have taught us**, and that we must speak of them in the same manner as they have spoken

1. Roman Catholics teach that the sacrament – the Mass- helps to save.

Because they believe the Lord's Supper is the literal body and blood of Jesus, they believe when they eat it, Christ's properties take over and weed out sin.

But holy food is for the strengthening of the saved soul. Holy food **cannot exist in an unregenerate heart** (and help save). This is why those who inappropriately take the Lord's Supper are profaning the Lord's Supper. You understand why the Lord put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden **lest they ate of the Tree of Life and become corrupted.**

But it is Christ, not the Lord's Supper, who cleanses us from sins, through the working of his Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

You might say the Lord's Supper, once received, helps to sanctify the sinner...as he looks to Christ, but the Lord Supper never saves! You get sanctifying grace. Those who say otherwise are **overestimating the value of the Lord' Supper.**

2. If the Roman Catholics are right in believing the Mass is salvic, how do they explain no regular person gets to drink the "blood" of Christ?

Only the priests drink the wine, aka blood. Historically, rebellions were started in history, like in Bohemia, to get the wine, and even though they allowed Christians to drink the wine, it was only for a time. More than 1,000,000,000 believe this!

Underestimation Of the Lord's Supper

1. The Lord's Supper is spiritual food to the believer and must not be construed as merely a sign of remembrance.

This was Zwingli's error. It is more than a mere sign. Look again at the language the Lord.

John 6:51 **"I am the living bread** which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, **which I shall give for the life** of the world." 55 **"For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

If you receive the Lord's Supper, **it is as if you were receiving Christ himself and his work.** The message of Christ's work in the Lord's Supper penetrates your soul – to its depths – and draws you more to Christ. It makes you willing to work for him. You receive the remembrance of his work and you are sanctified. The Lord's Supper is comfort food for your soul. **So don't underestimate it.**

2. This Lord's Supper holds all members of Christ church together, just like physical food holds the body together.

Apostle Paul said all Christians eat of the same loaf – the Lord Jesus Christ. What a beautiful expression **of Psalm 133.**

Who spends time eating together after a bitter fight? Consider how many wonderful **deals and agreements are made after a good meal together!** Christians come together with love...even if you have issues. You eat together and plan together to work for the kingdom.

3. While the Papal Mass is considered salvic, and therefore it is an overestimation of the Lord's Supper, the Papal Mass is also an underestimation of the Lord's Supper.

How? RC's teach that if you don't believe Jesus dies every week in the Mass you are under the curse of hell and you must take the Mass to be forgiven of your sins. For them, the once for all times sacrifice of Jesus isn't enough. But Christians who come to the Lord's Supper do not do so in order to be forgiven; they come because they are forgiven. Yes, **when Jesus**

died on the cross, he endured the full suffering, once for all, for the sins of the world.

He does not have to die again.

Hebrews 7:27 who [Jesus] **does not need daily**, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **once at the end** of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

You are grafted into Christ one time and sealed one time for all time by the Spirit for eternity.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption...

Jesus is in heaven until the end, not on earth. He isn't killed by priests weekly. Stephen saw Jesus sitting on this throne when he looked up into heaven. That's what Hebrews points out. Hebrews 8:1.

4. So worship God and don't join with those who try to kill his Son repeatedly.

If you seek to kill Jesus weekly you are underestimating his work, you spit at his sacrifice, and you are a thief of the wonders of his glorious death!

Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above...

Conclusion:

First, transubstantiation is a lie. But more, it is an insult and dishonors the Lord Jesus. He doesn't want his literal flesh eaten or his blood drunk. Second, no one is saved by eating the Lord's Supper. Third, you eat the Lord's Supper because God wants to nourish and sanctify you so you can grow to serve him better.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Don't overvalue, as Roman Catholic do, or undervalue the Lord's Supper, as Arminians and Roman Catholics do. Receive it regularly as nourishment to your soul.

2. Desire to take the Lord's Supper regularly. Don't treat it as insignificant. The preaching of the Word is the primary means of grace **but the Sacraments is the Word displayed!** It is easy to learn the visible. Don't miss it.

3. Avoid marrying those who corrupt this precious sacrament and rob the Lord of his rightful praise.

Finally: We have food for the soul until the end of the world because we are Christians, food that will sustain us for eternity. If you are not a Christian you don't. You have nothing to sustain you. But Jesus offers himself... his life and his death...his flesh and his blood to you. Receive him and live. Reject him and die.