

# this IS MY Body



## THE EUCHARIST: JESUS OR SYMBOL?

**C**atholics believe that in the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper, the bread and wine consecrated by the priest become the actual Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. It really is Jesus Himself under the appearance of bread and wine, not merely a symbol. The question is: What does the Bible say? Well, let's see:

It really is Jesus Himself under the appearance of bread and wine, not merely a symbol.

### MARK 14, MATTHEW 26 & LUKE 22

At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "This is My body." "This is My blood." Nowhere does He use symbolic language. Nowhere does He say, "This is symbolic of My body." "This represents My blood." "This is similar to My body." God says, "This **IS**..." Catholics believe what He says.

Paul relates what Jesus Himself taught Paul about the Last Supper. And, again, Jesus used the word "**IS**" - "This **IS** My body..." (verse 24).

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-29

says, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord." Well, if it's not the actual body and blood of the Lord...if it's merely a symbol... how could you be guilty of profaning the body and blood of

Nothing symbolic here. And, then, in verse 27, Paul

the Lord? And, verse 29, "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." The question is, though, how can you... "discern" the body, if it's not the body...if it's only a symbol? And why were people sick and dying for profaning a mere symbol? That makes no sense.

### 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 16-18

Verse 16: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we bless, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" How is that possible if it is only symbolically Jesus' body and blood? And verse 18 is very interesting: "Consider the practice of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar?" Eating the sacrifice makes you a partner in the sacrifice of the altar. What was the New Testament sacrifice? Jesus on the cross. Real, not symbolic.

## THIS IS MY BODY... THIS IS MY BLOOD!

### JOHN 6:51-66

Verse 53-55: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you; he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life...for My flesh is real food indeed and My blood is real drink indeed." Catholic Christians take Jesus at His word. Many non-Catholic Christians say, "Well, Jesus is really speaking symbolically here..." Yet, the Jews took Him to be speaking literally (verse 52); His own disciples took Him to be speaking literally (verse 60); and even the Apostles took Him to be speaking literally (verses 67-68).

So, the question is, if everyone who heard Jesus speak on that day

took Him to be speaking literally, then why does anyone, 2000 years after the fact, take Him to be speaking symbolically? Is it because it truly is a "hard saying" (verse 60)? I mean, what is it about eating and drinking Jesus' symbolic body and blood - eating a cracker and drinking some grape juice - that constitutes a "hard saying"?

### JOHN 6:63

Jesus says, "It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." "See," many will say, "Jesus is speaking spiritually, or symbolically, not literally." Is it the Father, Son, and

Holy Symbolic? No! The Spirit is as real as it gets. Furthermore, would these same people claim that the flesh of Jesus Christ is of no avail?! Of course not! And, if verse 63 is Jesus giving a "symbolic"

away from Him in John 6:66-666. Hmmm...

### JOHN 6:51

John 6:51 seals the deal for the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist...that it truly is the authentic Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, and not merely a symbol. In verse 51, Jesus says that the bread He wants to give to us to eat, is the bread which

He will give for the life of the world - His flesh! So, when did He give His flesh for the life of the world? On the Cross. Was the flesh on the Cross real, or was it merely a symbolic representation of Jesus?

It was real! So, if the bread He wants to give us to eat is the flesh that He gave us for the life of the world - the flesh that hung on the Cross - and that flesh was real, then He wants us to eat His real flesh and drink His real blood. You can't say He is talking about His real flesh in verse 51, but then change it to His symbolic flesh in verses 53-58. "My flesh is real food indeed and My blood is real drink indeed."

But, how can this be? The disciples wondered the same thing. That's why they said, "This is a hard saying." The question for you is: Will you, too, walk away from Jesus over this difficult saying? Or will you trust that with God, all things are possible?



explanation regarding eating His flesh and drinking His blood, then why did His disciples walk away from Him in verse 66, after His supposedly symbolic explanation? Jesus' disciples walked