

BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

1994 CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

1. THE EUCHARIST (COMMUNION) AND THE CROSS ARE THE SAME

The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: 'The victim is one and the same' . . . Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner. (No. 1367)

2. CATHOLICISM'S REDEMPTION FROM SIN IS BOUND IN THE EUCHARIST

When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, . . . the sacrifice Christ offered once on the cross remains ever present. As often as the sacrifice of the Cross . . . is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out. (No. 1364)

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 1:11)

3. CHRIST IN THE GIFTS OF CREATION (BREAD AND WINE) IS OFFERED

. . . we offer to the Father what He has Himself given us: the gifts of His creation, bread and wine which, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of Christ, have become the body and blood of Christ. Christ is thus really and mysteriously made present. (No. 1357)

4. THE EUCHARIST IS A SACRIFICE FOR SIN

As sacrifice, the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God. (No. 1414)

5. The Eucharist is our Primary Sacrament

The Eucharist is the 'source and the summit of the Christian life'. The other sacraments . . . are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the church, namely Christ himself. (No. 1324)

SCRIPTURES RESPONSE

1. **Christ's sacrifice cannot be repeated in any manner**

*And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God; For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (**Heb. 10:11-14**)*

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (**Heb. 9:27-28**)*

2. **There are No More sacrifices needed for today**

*And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (**Heb. 10:17-18**)*

*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. (**1 Pet. 3:18**)*

3. **Offerings of "Bread and Wine" are unacceptable to God**

*And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. (**Gen. 4:3-5**)*

4. **There is NO sacrifice for the dead**

*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (**John 3:18**)*

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (**John 3:36**)*

CATHOLIC RETORT

Didn't Jesus say in John 6:53, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you"?

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

1. **The key to understanding John 6:53 is our Lord's interpretation in John 6:35:**
And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)

2. **God clearly states that we cannot eat blood. God told:**

Israel

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off. (Lev. 17:11-14)

Christians

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. (Acts 15:19-20)

As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. (Acts 21:25)