

The Lord's Supper:  
A Special Worship Experience

Selected Scripture

# I. The Roman Catholic View of the Lord's Supper: Transubstantiation

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The substance of the bread and the wine is miraculously transformed into the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus Christ is being sacrificed again, on behalf of the participants, to atone for their sins.

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*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." (Mt.26:26)*

*I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is  
that bears much fruit, for apart from me you  
can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved (John 10:9).*

*Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)*

The Roman Catholic view is wrong because:

2. It fails to recognize the finality and completeness of Jesus' death on the cross for our sins.

*For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands . . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own . . . .*

*But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Heb.9:24-28)*

## II. The Biblical View of the Lord's Supper: A Symbolic and Spiritual Presence of Christ.

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- A. The bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Jesus.
- B. The bread and wine represent the spiritual presence of Jesus.

*For where two or three are gathered in my  
name, there am I among them.  
(Matt. 18:20)*

“Yet we must not say that Christ is present apart from our personal faith, but [He] only meets and blesses us there in accordance with our faith in him.”

– Wayne Grudem

1. The Lord's Supper reminds us of Christ's death on the cross.

2. The Lord's Supper proclaims the gospel:

## 2. The Lord's Supper proclaims the gospel:

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor.11:26)*

“The act of taking the bread and the cup is a dramatization of the gospel, a graphic display of what Christ’s death has accomplished. It points backward to his death as the basis of our salvation.”

– Millard Erickson

“More than that, however, it also declares a present truth – the importance of a proper frame of mind and heart. Communicants are to examine themselves before eating the bread and drinking the cup.”

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3. The Lord's Supper requires that we carefully examine ourselves:

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*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (1 Cor.11:27-28)*