

Introduction:

Reflections on being brought up Roman Catholic

Key Thought: Man, who is created in the image of God, in his fallen state, apart from God, ALWAYS pervert true worship. Such is the case in the Roman Catholic Mass. We should tie ourselves inextricably to the revealed Word of God and not deviate from His prescribed form of worship

Question 84: What difference is there between the Supper of the Lord and the Popish mass?

Answer: The Supper of the Lord testifies to us that we have perfect forgiveness of all our sins, on account of the only sacrifice of Christ, which He once fully wrought on the cross (a). It also testifies that we, by faith, are grafted into Christ (b), who now according to His human nature is only in heaven at the right hand of His Father(c), and there will be worshiped by us (d).

But in the mass, it is denied that the living and the dead have remission of sins by the only passion of Christ, except He also be daily offered for them by their sacrifices. Further it is taught that Christ is bodily under the forms of bread and wine, and therefore is to be worshiped in them and so the very foundation of the mass is nothing else but an utter denial of that only sacrifice and passion of Christ Jesus, and an accursed idolatry

(a); Matt 26:28; Luke 22:19-20; John 19:30; Heb 7:27, 9:12,26,28; 10:10, 12, 14

(b) 1 Cor 6:17; 10:16-17; 12:13

(c) Luke 24:5; John 20:17; Acts 7:55-56; Phil 3:20; Col 3:1; 1 Thes 1:9-10; Heb 1:3

(d) John 4:21-24; Heb 1:6, 8

1. Christ suffered once for all and declared 'IT IS FINISHED'

- a. There is no need for any other sacrifice (Heb 7:27, 9:12,28, 10:10,12,14)
- b. We are in communion with Christ (1 Cor 6:17, 10: 16-17)
- c. Jesus our High Priest is in Heaven (Stephen Acts 7:55-56, Heb 1:3)
- d. Salvation is accomplished in Christ's finished work (Jn 19:30)

2. The Mass is a heretical re-sacrificing of Christ on the cross

- a. RC believe the body and blood of Christ are present in the elements
 - i. Christ is crucified afresh during each Mass
- b. The RC Priests stands in a Priest's office before God
- c. Only a RC Priest can administer the Lord's Supper
- d. Protestants cannot administer the Lord's Supper

Question 85: Who are to come to the table of the Lord?

Answer: They only who are truly sorrowful they have offended God by their sins, and yet trust that those sins are pardoned them for Christ's sake, and what other infirmities they have, that those are covered by His passion and death, who also desire more and more to go forward in faith and integrity of life. But hypocrites, and those who do not truly repent, do eat and drink damnation to themselves (a)

(a) 1 Cor 10:21-22; 11:27ff

3. If you are living the Gospel, you are welcome

- a. Examine your salvation (only the saved)
- b. Examine your walk (don't come with a hard heart filled with sin) (1Co 11:27-30)
- c. Acknowledge Sin / Repent of Sin / Trust that your sins are forgiven by confessing and forsaking them though your active faith in Christ (1 Jn 1:9)

4. Do not be flippant about taking the Lord's Supper

- d. There are consequences for flippancy (1 Cor 11:30)

Question 86: Are they also to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who in confession and life declare themselves to be infidels, profane, and ungodly?

Answer: No. By that means the ordinance of God is profaned and the wrath of God is stirred up against the whole assembly (a), wherefore the church by the commandment of Christ and His Apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, using the keys of the kingdom of heaven, ought to drive them from this Supper till they shall repent and change their manners

(a) 1 Cor 11:20-22, 34; Cf Psa 50:1 ff; Isa 1:11 ff; 66:3; Jer 7:21 ff

5. Don't come in hypocrisy

- a. Unbelievers have no part of communion with Christ because they are strangers of the commonwealth of God (Eph 1:12)
- b. Those who treat the Holiness of God, His Church, and His people with irreverence (Profane) are not welcome (I Tim 1:9)
- c. Those who walk in disobedience and impious disobedience (ungodly) (Jude 14-15)

6. Fencing the Table is NOT an option

- a. The Church is to exercise authority and prohibit participation from those who should not come to the Table.
 - i. Spoiler alert. This will be addressed in question number 88

Question 87: How ought this ordinance of the Lord's Supper to be closed?

Answer: In singing praises to God vocally and audibly for His great benefits and blessings to His Church in the shedding of the most precious blood of His Son to take away their sin, which blessings are pointed out in this sacrament. Also, we find our Lord and His disciples concluded this ordinance in singing a hymn or psalm (a). If Christ sang, who was going to die, how much more cause to sing have we for whom He died? He died that we might not eternally die, but live a spiritual and eternal life with Father, Son, and Spirit in inexpressible glory.

(a) Matt 26:30

7. Follow the example of Christ

8. Follow the example of Paul and Silas (Acts 16: 22-26)

Questions

1. How do we tie ourselves inextricably to the true form of worship prescribed by God in His Word?
2. Why should a truly converted Christian refrain from taking the Lord's Supper?
3. Is it possible to refrain from taking the Lord's Supper when you should partake?
4. Would it be ok to take the Lord's Supper if you attend a Mass?
5. How has your understanding of the Lord's Supper evolved since you became a Christian?