



# Welcome!

**The Faithful Questions live-stream  
will start shortly**

# Is the Eucharist really the Body and Blood of Christ?

*Faithful Questions – May 2020*

*Deacon Ken Crawford*







# Overview

- Scriptural evidence
  - Last Supper
  - John, Chapter 6
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians
- Church Fathers
  - Bible doesn't tell us everything
- Understanding Transubstantiation
  - What is "substance"?
  - Material properties of the Eucharist
- Eucharistic miracles

**Intermission!**





# Introduction



# How to ask questions

- On YouTube: Write a comment and start it
  - DEACON QUESTION –
- If you don't have a YouTube account:
  - <http://deaconken.org/blog/chat>
  - Still start your comment:
  - DEACON QUESTION –





# Scriptural evidence



# Last Supper

- **Matthew 26:26-28**

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, I for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.

- **Mark 14:22-24**

While they were eating, He took some bread, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

- **Luke 22:19-20**

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.





# John chapter 6

- **Verses 47-56**

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.







# John chapter 6

- Verses 60, 66-69
  - Then many of his disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?”
  - (snip)
  - As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”



# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

- **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

- **1 Corinthians 11:20**

Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

- **1 Corinthians 11:26**

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes





# Quickly a tradition

- **Acts 2:42-43**

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles

- **Acts 20:7**

On the first day of the week when we gathered to break bread





# Church Fathers



# Who are the Church Fathers?

- Christians didn't stop writing when Apostles died
- Throughout 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century many saints expanded upon theology of Church
- Much more expansive than biblical texts
- Gives great insight into the early Church





# St. Ignatius (110 AD)

- Letter to the Romans 7:3

I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the Bread of God, which is the flesh of Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire his blood, which is love incorruptible.

- Letter to the Philadelphians 4:1

Take care, then, to use one Eucharist, so that whatever you do, you do according to God: For there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup in the union of his blood;

- Letter to the Smyrnians 7:1

They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the eucharist is the flesh of our savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father, in his goodness, raised up again.







# St. Justin Martyr (165 AD)

- First apology, 66

For not as common bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Savior was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by Him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nourished, is both the flesh and the blood of that incarnated Jesus.



# St. Irenaeus (200 AD)

- **Against Heresies**

But what consistency is there in those who hold that the bread over which thanks have been given is the body of their Lord, and the cup his blood, if they do not acknowledge that He is the Son of the Creator... How can they say that the flesh which has been nourished by the body of the Lord and by his blood gives way to corruption and does not partake of life? ...For as the bread from the earth, receiving the invocation of God, is no longer common bread but the Eucharist, consisting of two elements, earthly and heavenly



# Submit your questions

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  - Still start your comment:
  - DEACON QUESTION –





# Still having an intermission?

- Yes!
- Hard to stay focused for 60+ minutes
- Allows us to gather questions for Q&A
- Don't forget your snacks!



**2 Minute Break**  
**Submit your questions!**

02:00



**2 Minute Break**

**Time is Up!**







# Transubstantiation



# Understanding substance

- Aristotle was central to defining the idea of substance
- Modern equivalent words:
  - Nature
  - Purpose



# Corpse/body example

- Imagine a scientist can take two static snapshots of a person
  - Moments before they die
  - Moments after they die
- Could anyone tell the difference?
- Yet one is called a person and the other a corpse
- Thus our “substance” is more than just our physics







# Defining transubstantiation

- The bread and the wine
  - Substantially for the purpose of nutrition
- Its substance is changed
  - Becomes by its nature the body and blood of Christ
- Accidentals don't change
  - "Accidentals" are the material/physical properties
  - I.e. there is no material way to tell it apart from unconsecrated bread and wine
    - Taste
    - Cellular content
    - Chemical content
    - Etc.





# Eucharistic Miracles



# Nature of miracles

- **Unique**
  - They are not repeatable (unless God chooses to do them repeatedly)
- **Not normal**
  - By definition they are not what normally happens
- **A blessing/gift**
  - God intervenes in the normal so as to bless us





# Lunciano – 8<sup>th</sup> century

- Priest was experiencing doubts about real presence
- During consecration of Mass bread and wine transformed into human flesh and blood
- Declared a miracle by his Bishop
- Preserved to this day in Church of San Francisco in Luciano, Italy
  - 1971 scientific tests revealed it to be cardiac tissue





# Corporal of Bolsena – 13th

- Priest was experiencing doubts about transubstantiation
- During consecration host started bleeding
- Blood dripped onto corporal
- Corporal is on display in Cathedral of Orvieto





# Santarem, Portugal – 13th

- Sorceress asked for consecrated host from woman looking to damn her cheating husband
- Took it off her tongue at mass to bring to the sorceress
  - Started to bleed even before she left the Church
- She put it in a trunk at home before going back to the sorceress
  - Overnight light from trunk scared her
- She returned host to Church
- On display in Church







# What to make of these?

- God sometimes uses miracles to help us
- But must remember this is *\*not\** what we believe happens on a regular basis



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

- The Eucharist is indeed the Body and Blood of Christ
  - Scripture and Church fathers confirm this
- But we must understand the difference between substance and “Accidentals” or material
- Eucharistic miracles are
  - A gift from God
  - An exception to the norm







# Satisfaction Survey

- Did you enjoy this talk? Or not?
- Let me know:
  - <http://deaconken.org/blog>
  - <http://deaconken.org/blog/quiz/may-2020-faithful-questions-satisfaction-survey/>





# Next Time

- Summer series
  - Dates still in flux
  - Topics will all be repeats
  - Plan to start 1<sup>st</sup> week of June as live-stream only
  - In person will be added when we reach “Stage 3”
- Monthly series
  - Re-start in September
  - Always looking for topic suggestions





# Additional Information

- Slides
  - <http://deaconken.org/blog/category/faithful-questions-seminar/>
  - <http://deaconken.org/blog/>
- Audio/Video on YouTube
  - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjDRHzlHV-O\\_zF1op8rtlba](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjDRHzlHV-O_zF1op8rtlba)
- Webpage:
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  - [ken@deaconken.org](mailto:ken@deaconken.org)







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Questions?





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