

## **Belgic Confession 35-Part 2 – Lord’s Supper - The Errors**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Last time you heard **why you need to receive the Lord’s Supper, how you were able to receive the benefits of the Lord’s Supper** (by faith), and **what the elements of the Lord’s Supper were** (bread and wine). Because there have been many serious errors taught regarding this doctrine, we will take some time to correct them. I don’t want to belabor 痛斥 the teaching on the Lord’s Supper, but since close to 2,000,000,000 people have some of these errors, it is worth the time.

Our headings are:

**That the Bread and the Wine become the Real Flesh and Blood of Jesus - Transubstantiation 變質说**

**That the Bread and the Wine become a means of salvation when eaten – Overestimation**

**That the Bread and the Wine are nothing more than Memorials - Underestimation**

Our goals are: That **you will properly view the Lord’s Supper, that you will receive its benefits, and that you will then be strengthened to fight for the kingdom.**

### **That the Bread and Wine become real flesh and blood – Transubstantiation**

In the meantime we err not when we say that what is eaten and drunk by **us is the proper and natural body and the proper blood of Christ**. But the manner of our partaking of the same is not by the mouth, but by the spirit through faith. Thus, then, though Christ always sits at the right hand of His Father in the heavens, yet does He not therefore cease to make us partakers of Himself by faith. This feast is a spiritual table, at which Christ communicates Himself with all His benefits to us, and gives us there to enjoy both Himself and the merits of His sufferings and death: nourishing, strengthening, and comforting our poor comfortless souls by the eating of His flesh, quickening and refreshing them by the drinking of His blood 同时我们不要弄错，当我们说我们所吃喝的就是基督的身体与血；但是我们在吃喝的时候，并不是用我们的口，乃是借着信心用我们的灵来吃喝。这样，虽然基督坐在天父的右边，然而他总是叫我们凭信心与他联合。这是属灵的筵席，借此基督把他一切的恩典与好处份赐给我们，叫我们享受他自己，以及他受苦、受死的功劳，借着吃他的肉来培养、坚固并安慰我们的灵魂，借着喝他的血来复苏我们的灵魂。

#### **1. You have already seen that the Lord’s Supper was given to remember Christ’s death, which is a nourishment to the Christian’s soul.**

1Corinthians 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; **this is My body** which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 ... "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood**. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**But let’s talk errors:**

#### **2. Transubstantiation. Transubstantiation is the Roman Catholic teaching that the bread and the wine of the Lord’s Supper become the real blood and body of the Lord...so they believe they are eating real flesh and drinking real blood!**

#### **3. Why is transubstantiation wrong?**

**a. Cannibalism 同类相食 is immoral.** When you say you eat the crucified body of Christ you mean that you accept with a believing heart the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, and you accept with a believing heart that your sins are removed and you accept with a believing heart that you have eternal life. **You are not trying to be saved; you are saved!** And your soul digests this truth. You don’t digest Christ’s body. **This would be criminal and disallowed.**

**b. Evidence of eating Christ’s body and drinking his blood is lacking.**

John 6: 35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 50 "This is the **bread which comes down from heaven**, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone **eats of this bread, he will live forever**; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.** 54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

**Based on this text, who ate Jesus’ body and drank his literal blood?** None. But if you have to eat his body and drink his blood to be saved, does that mean that none then can be saved? Of course it doesn’t mean that. **Theologically, this transubstantiation is refuted.** Further, since Jesus is not physically present, how can you eat him today?

**c. Jesus showed he was not talking about people literally 字面上 eating his body and drinking his blood, that the elements (bread and wine) are not supernaturally changed into the real body and blood of the Lord, as RC’s teach.**

Matthew 26: 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body.**" 27 Then **He took the cup, and gave thanks**, and gave

it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 "But I say to you, **I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**"

The Lord **compares the wine he was drinking with what he would drink again...after his resurrection复活**. He would eat and drink real food after his resurrection. And surely he would not drink his own blood. **Look again**, the Apostle Paul pointed out that those who were drinking too much in church were becoming drunk. Wasn't he literally reminding his readers that they were drinking alcohol, not human blood? Even the blood of animals had to be drained when the animal was killed.

**1Corinthians 10:2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, **3** all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock** that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Can you conclude that the Israelites drank Jesus. **Logically this argument made no sense.**

#### **4. How then do we explain the strong language that seems to suggest that we eat the literal body and drink the literal blood of Jesus Christ?** (Clear passages must interpret unclear passages.) First, look at the Apostle Paul's language also.

**1Corinthians 10:16** The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, is it **not the communion of the body of Christ?** **17** For we, though many, **are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.**

Apostle Paul called the elements the "body and blood" of the Lord to **show strong symbolic connection between the sign (Lord's Supper) and the thing signified (Jesus Christ)**. You might say: "He is a giant." You don't mean that the man is literally a 9 foot "giant." You mean that the man is big and tall. Or you may mean he is a giant in his field of work.

### **That the Bread and Wine Becomes A Means of Salvation when Eaten-Overestimation高估**

Further, though **the sacraments are connected with the thing signified nevertheless both are not received by all men.** The ungodly indeed receives the sacrament to his condemnation, but he does not receive the truth of the sacrament, even as Judas and Simon the sorcerer both indeed received the sacrament but not Christ who was signified by it, of whom believers only are made partakers此外，虽然这些圣礼是属于代表的事物，但并不是所有的人都可以接受的；不信的人领受这圣礼是吃喝自己的罪，因他们并未领受圣餐的真理。正如犹大与行邪术的西门都领受了圣餐，但未领受基督，因为圣礼所代表的就是基督，信徒唯独与基督联合。最后，我们在神子民的集会中领受此圣礼，用谦虚与恭敬的心，用感谢的心，来纪念我们救主基督的死；承认我们所信的，并承认我们的基督宗教。因此，人不可不先考查自己而来到主的桌前，免得吃这饼喝这杯是吃喝自己的罪。

Therefore we reject all mixtures and damnable inventions which men have added unto and blended with the sacraments, as profanations of them; and affirm that we ought to rest satisfied with the ordinance which Christ and His apostles have taught us, and that we must speak of them in the same manner as they have spoken简言之，我们用此圣礼得到鼓励，对神对人激发爱心。因此我们拒绝一切混杂与可恶的发明，就是人所加添并搀杂其他亵渎的礼节；乃要坚称我们应当以基督的命令及使徒所教导我们的为满足，而且一定要以他们所说的来论及有关圣礼的事。

**1. Roman Catholics teach that the sacraments cause salvation.** Since the Lord's Supper is the literal body and blood of Jesus, they believe that when they eat it, Christ's properties take over and weed out sin.

**But holy food is for the strengthening of the saved soul.** Holy food cannot exist in an unregenerate未重生 heart. This is why those who inappropriately take the Lord's Supper are profaning the Lord's Supper. You understand why the Lord put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden **lest they ate of the Tree of Life and became corrupted.**

**But it is Christ, not the Lord's Supper, who cleanses us from sins, through the working of his Holy Spirit.**

**Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

You might say that the Lord's Supper, once received, helps to sanctify the sinner...as he looks to Christ, **but the Lord Supper never saves!** So those who think that they are saved by eating of the Lord's Supper deny the Scripture.

**They overestimate the value of the Lord' Supper by claiming it is salvic.**

**2. If the Roman Catholics are right in believing that the Mass is salvic, then how** do they explain that no regular person gets to drink the "blood" of Christ? Only the priests drink the wine, aka blood. Why do they deny the people? Historically, rebellion were started in history, like in Bohemia, to get the wine, and even though they allowed Christians to drink the wine, it was only for a time. Roman Catholics over-esteem the Lord's Supper. There is a contradiction矛盾 here.

### **That the Bread and the Wine are nothing more that memorials - Underestimation**

**1. The Lord's Supper is spiritual food to the believer and must not be construed解释 as merely a sign of remembrance.** This

was Zwingli's error. The Lord's Supper is more than a mere sign. Look again at the language the Lord.

John 6:51 **"I am the living bread** which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, **which I shall give for the life** of the world." 55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

If you receive the Lord's Supper, it is as if you were receiving Jesus Christ himself and his work. The message of Christ's work in the Lord's Supper penetrates your soul – to its greatest depths – and it draws you to Christ even more. It makes you willing to work for him. You received him and were saved. You receive the remembrance of his work and you are sanctified.

The Lord's Supper is comfort food for your soul. **So don't underestimate** 低估 it.

**2. This Lord's Supper holds all members of Christ church together, just like physical food holds the body together.** Apostle Paul said that all Christians eat of the same loaf – even the Lord Jesus Christ. So the Lord Supper is a means of drawing brothers and sisters together. What a beautiful expression **of Psalm 133**. Who spends time eating together after a bitter fight? Consider how many wonderful deals and agreements are made after a good meal together! Christians come together with love...even if you have issues. You eat together and plan together to work for the kingdom.

**3. While the Papal Mass is considered salvic, and therefore it is an overestimation of the Lord's Supper, the Papal Mass is also an underestimation of the Lord's Supper. How? RC's teach that if you don't believe that Jesus dies every week in the Mass you are under the curse of hell and that you must take the Papal Mass to be forgiven of your sins. For them, the once for all times sacrifice of Jesus isn't enough. But Christians who come to the Lord's Supper do not do so in order to be forgiven; they come because they are forgiven. Look at the Bible on this: **When Jesus died on the cross he endured the full suffering, once for all, for the sins of the world.** This means that he does not have to die again.**

Hebrews 7:27 who [Jesus] **does not need daily**, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption. **25** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—**26** He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **once at the end** of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. **14** **For by one offering** He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. **18** Now where there is remission of these 所以在哪里这些罪得了赦免, there is no longer an offering for sin.

**You are grafted 移植 into Christ one time for all time and sealed 印记 one time for all time by the Spirit for eternity.**

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption...

**Jesus is in heaven...not on earth to be killed by Roman Catholics priests weekly...and will be there till the end of the world.** That's what Stephen saw when he looked up into heaven. That's what Hebrews points out. Hebrews 8:1.

**4. So worship God. Don't try to kill his Son repeatedly.** If you seek to kill Jesus weekly you are underestimating his work, you spit at his sacrifice, and you are a thief of his glorious death!

Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above...

### **Conclusion:**

First, transubstantiation is a lie. But more, it is an insult and dishonor to the Lord Jesus. He doesn't want his literal flesh eaten. Second, no one is saved by eating the Lord's Supper. Third, you eat the Lord's Supper because want God to nourish and sanctify you so you can grow to serve him better.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Don't overvalue, as Roman Catholic do, or undervalue the Lord's Supper, as Arminians do.** Receive it regularly as nourishment to your soul.

**2. Desire to take it regularly.** Don't treat it as insignificant. The preaching of the Word is the primary means of grace...but the Sacraments is the Word displayed! It is easy to learn the visible. Don't miss it.

Finally: We have food for the soul until the end of the world because we are Christians, food that will sustain us for eternity. If you are not a Christian you don't. You have nothing to sustain you. But Jesus offers himself... his life and his death...his flesh and his blood to you. Receive him and live. Reject him and die.