

Who Says the Mass is a Sacrifice?

Jimmy Swaggart (making a foolish and unhistorical claim):

“The Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation is, without question, one of the most absurd doctrines ever imposed on a trusting public... Roman Catholic errors are inevitably human innovations that were inserted into the church during the early centuries. This teaching on the Eucharist follows this pattern.

“In the first century, as described in the New Testament, Holy Communion was a meal of fellowship eaten as a memorial to the death of Christ and a symbol of unity among Christians both with each other and with Christ.

“In the second century it began to shift toward a *ceremony*, in which Christ was present in some undefined form. This was not yet the eventual Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation which was a development of the Middle Ages but it was a *beginning* in this unfortunate direction.

“By the third century the idea of sacrifice began to intrude, whereby Christ's body and blood were mysteriously produced by an ordained priest for the gratification and benefit of both the living and the dead.” (*Catholicism and Christianity*)

Oh, really?!?!

Didache (around 60 AD):

“Assemble on the Lord’s Day, and break bread and offer the Eucharist; but **first make confession of your faults**, so that your **sacrifice may be a pure one**. Anyone who has a difference with his fellow is not to take part with you until they have been reconciled, so as **to avoid any profanation of your sacrifice**. For **this is the offering** of which the Lord has said, ‘Everywhere and always bring me a **sacrifice that is undefiled**, for I am a great king, says the Lord, and my name is the wonder of nations’ [Malachi 1:11].

Ignatius of Antioch (died 106 AD)

“Consider how contrary to the mind of God are the heterodox... They **abstain from the Eucharist** and from prayer, because **they do not admit that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ**, the flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father, in His graciousness, raised from the dead.”

Biblical Analysis of Sacrifice

Mal 1 and 1 Cor 10

Let's allow Scripture to interpret Scripture!

Malachi 1:6-12 “A son honors *his* father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’

7 “*You* are presenting defiled **food** upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘**The table of the LORD** is to be despised.’

11 “For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name *will be* great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a **grain offering** *that is* pure; for My name *will be* great among the nations,” says the LORD of hosts.

12 “But you are profaning it, in that you say, ‘**The table of the Lord** is defiled, and as for its fruit, its **food** is to be despised.’

1 Corinthians 10:14 “14 Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**
15. **I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.**

16. Is not the cup of blessing which we Christians bless a **participation** in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we Christians break a **participation** in the body of Christ?

17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

18 Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices **participants** in the altar?

19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become **participants** in demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot **partake** of the **table of the Lord** [altar] and the table of demons.

Comparing Three Sacrifices:

| Sacrifice | Sacrifices | Participants... | Given to | Altar |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Israel | Animals, etc. | ...in the Altar | Yahweh | Temple Altar |
| Pagan (Gentile) | Things | ...in demons | Demons | Table of Demons |
| Christian | Bread & Wine | ... in Body & Blood of Christ | God | Table of the Lord |

Revelation 5:6 “And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders **a Lamb standing, as if slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.”

1 John 2:1-2 “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we **have** an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself **is** the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”

“Do this in remembrance of Me” is loaded with Sacrificial overtones!

Early Church Precedent

Read my book [Crossing the Tiber](#) for Fathers of the Church on the Eucharist as a Sacrifice

Clement of Rome (96): “Our sin will not be small if we eject from the episcopate [bishop or group of presiding bishops] those who blamelessly and holily **have offered its Sacrifices**.”

Ignatius “Make certain, therefore, that you all observe one common Eucharist; for there is but one Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and but one

cup of union with His Blood, and [one single altar of sacrifice](#)—even as also there is but one bishop, with his clergy and my own fellow-servitors the deacons.