05-Once For All: The "Sacrifice" of the Mass

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Intro We've done our best not to misrepresent Catholicism by referring to their own official doctrine.

A. We've seen time and again how what they practice is at odds with plain NT Scripture.
   1. From their veneration of Mary to the organization of their denomination, to the vary view they hold of scripture, we've seen the discrepancies.
   2. And we've only scratched the surface..

B. Finally today we'll discuss the very center of Catholic life: The Mass..
   1. "Mass" comes from a Latin word meaning "to go" or "to be sent" and originally referred to the dismissal at the end of the worship service. It eventually became synonymous with the worship service itself.
   2. Mass is conducted on a daily basis. I remember walking to school in the morning and seeing faithful Catholics gathering for it, many daily w/o fail.
   3. What is it? What does it include? Moreover, is it scriptural?
   4. Again, we'll look at their own words and compare them with inspired scripture.

I. A Perpetual Sacrifice?

A. The mass, according to Catholicism, is the "unbloody sacrifice" of Jesus.
   1. It's more than merely a reenactment of His death, it is the literal, actual sacrifice of Christ. Every time they celebrate the Mass, they believe they are sacrificing Jesus again & again fro their sins.
   2. "The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it re-presents (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross" (CC 1366)
   3. "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice... the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and offered in an unbloody manner." (CC 1367)

B. The Mass teaches a continual offering, but Scripture emphasizes a finished sacrifice—once for all time—not to be repeated or represented.
   1. Scripture, in plain and direct refutation, describes Jesus' sacrifice as so singularly perfect, it was only necessary once.
      a. **Heb 9:25-28; 10:10-14**
   2. How can they dogmatically claim some thing the Bible so plainly refutes?

II. The Literal Body and Blood of Christ?.

A. It follows that if Jesus, according to Catholicism, is being really and actually sacrificed again, then His body is present.
   1. This is where the Eucharist (the LS) finds its focus.
   2. Transubstantiation is the moment when the bread-like wafer and the wine mysteriously but actually become the body and blood of Jesus.
   3. "By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance... This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation." (CC 1376)
   4. "Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner..." (CC 1413)
   5. "If any one shall deny that the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the whole Christ, are truly, really and substantially contained in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, let him be anathema" (Council of Trent, 1551 AD)

B. First, realize that Jesus often used symbolic language to refer to Himself.
   1. "I am the door" -John 10:9; "I am the vine" -John 15:1
   2. Jesus' Himself reminds us that the supper He established is a commemorative meal.
      a. **Matt 26:26-29; Luke 22:19**
   3. Paul taught the same thing: **1 Cor 11:23-26**
   4. Picture a man biting into a chocolate bunny and suddenly shouting, "This isn't symbolic! It's a real rabbit!" People would think he needs help. Taking symbolic language literally can get messy. When Jesus said, "I am the door," nobody looked for hinges! Some metaphors are meant to be understood, not swallowed.
   5. If the elements are genuinely transformed into Christ's body and blood, they cease to be mere reminders and become the actual object of remembrance in contradiction to what Jesus and Paul said.

III. The Priest as Mediator?

A. We've already shown the Catholic assertion that The modern priesthood is based on and is a **continuance of the Levitical priesthood of the OT**
   1. As such, the priests mediate between God and man in the sacrifice of the Mass.
   2. "The redemptive sacrifice of Christ is unique... but it is made present through the ministerial priesthood without adding to the sacrifice of the cross." (CC 1545)
   3. "The ministerial priesthood is... a means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church." (CC 1547)
   4. As mediator, there are numerous ritualistic gestures the priest makes throughout the Mass
      a. Eg; He extends his hands as he prays to symbolize Jesus' arms extended in crucifixion.

B. While the Old Testament distributed mediatorial functions among patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, the New Testament consolidates all these roles exclusively in Jesus Christ.
   1. **Heb 4:14-16; 1 Tim 2:5**
   2. Catholic practice undermines Christ's sufficiency. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that confession of sins to a priest is necessary for forgiveness, whereas Scripture teaches that confession is made directly to God through Christ. This interjection of priestly mediation between the believer and God effectively diminishes Christ's role as the sole mediator of forgiveness.

IV. Worship In Spirit and Truth

A. NT worship makes no mention of the Mass or the Eucharist. In fact, NT worship is simple and spiritual, not carnal. – **John 4:22-24**
   1. We see: **Acts 2:42** The NT is specific:
      a. They prayed & studied the Bible – **Acts 2:42**
      b. They sang – **Eph 5:19, Col 3:16**
      c. They gave of their means – **1 Cor 16:1-2**
      d. They observed the LS – **Acts 20:7**

Conc: One by one, the doctrines which hold up Catholicism have fallen.

A. We could mention many more, but remember the premise we began with: A table without legs falls. We've cut the legs that support Catholicism.
   1. We could have mentioned many more Catholic doctrines but these, I hope, are sufficient to see that the denomination is of man, not God.
   2. They have the wrong authority, the wrong worship, the wrong organization, and the wrong mediator.

B. Thanks to God, we can know what He wants in His church and follow it for His approval and that's what matters most.

C. **INV**