

# What Protestants and Catholics Can Learn from Each Other

“What About Communion, Mass, and the Eucharist?”

1 Corinthians 10-11, 2025

WHAT PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER		
Civil Conversations About Beliefs and Traditions		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
May 18	What Protestants Can Learn from Catholics	1 Thess 5:16-21
May 25	What Catholics Can Learn from Protestants	Mark 7:1-13
June 1	What About Mother Mary and the Saints?	Luke 1-2
June 8	What About Communion, Mass, and the Eucharist?	1 Corinthians 10-11
June 15	What About Purgatory, the Rosary, and Confession?	Hebrews 10:1-17
June 22	What About Celibacy and Sexual Abuse? [PG-13 sermon]	1 Corinthians 7

## Review: What Protestants Can Learn From Catholics

1. The depth and importance of tradition.
2. A high view of the sacraments – Communion, confession, anointing the sick, marriage, singleness.

## What Catholics Can Learn From Protestants

1. The primary authority of scripture above all other authorities.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** *Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies<sup>1</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.*
  - **Acts 17:11** – *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*
  - The “Jesus’ gift plus nothing” plan of salvation (Romans 3:28; 4:4-5; Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
  - **Ephesians 2:8-9** – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*

## Different Names Given to Communion

1. **Sacrament** – “a thing set apart as \_\_\_\_\_” ; “a mystery”
  - o Protestant churches believe Jesus set apart 2 (as stated by Jesus) ceremonies as sacred for His church:
    - (1) Baptism (Matthew 28:19)
    - (2) Communion (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
  - o Catholic churches set apart 7 ceremonies as sacred:
    - (1) Baptism

- (2) Confirmation
- (3) Eucharist
- (4) Confession
- (5) Extreme Unction (anointing of the sick)
- (6) Ordination
- (7) Matrimony

2. **The Eucharist** – The Greek word for \_\_\_\_\_.  
The term is used in the catholic church to refer to the bread and wine – the taking of which is a time of thanksgiving.
3. **Mass**  
Derived from the Latin phrase (*mission* = “sending forth”) used at the end of the eucharist service in catholic churches to dismiss the faithful so they can fulfill God’s will in their lives. The term mass is used to describe the entire service in which the priest participates in the sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ.
4. **The Lords Supper** - The term \_\_\_\_\_ gives in 1 Corinthians 11:20 to the act of believers partaking of the bread and wine.
5. **Communion** – the term used to describe the Lord supper because, in it, we participate with or \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). “Communion” = King James translation of “participation.”

## What Happens in Communion?

View	Christ and the elements	Significance
Transubstantiation (Roman Catholic)	Bread and wine literally change to body and blood of Christ	Recipient partakes of Christ, who is being sacrificed in the Mass to atone for sins
Consubstantiation (Lutheran)	Bread and wine contain the body of Christ but do not literally change. Christ is actually present “in, with and under” the elements	Recipient receives forgiveness of sins and confirmation of ones faith through partaking off the elements, but they must be received through faith.
Reformed	Christ is not literally present in the	Recipient receives grace through

(presbyterian reformed)	elements but there is a spiritual presence of Christ	partaking of the elements.
Memorial (Baptist, Mennonite)	Christ is not present physically or spiritually	Recipient commemorates the death of Christ.

## So What Does the Scriptures Say?

### **1 Corinthians 10:14-22**

- Main (*only*) command = “flee from \_\_\_\_\_” v. 14
- Partaking of the bread and wine is a “participation” (*koinonia*) in the body and blood of Christ. v. 16
- *Koinonia* = fellowship, sharing, communion, participation. Term frequently used to describe how Christians are to interact with one another (Acts 2:42-47)
- We are to avoid idolatry because to idolize something is to have \_\_\_\_\_ with it. vv. 14, 20-22
- Application: What or whom have I been idolizing other than Christ himself? What steps do I need to take to stop this false communion?

### **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

- This whole section appears to be a confrontation against \_\_\_\_\_ all the Lords Supper bread and wine, leading to drunkenness or leaving some without. vv. 17-22, 27, 33-34
- The format for taking communion is given in vv. 23-25:
  - give thanks
  - the Words of Christ
  - breaking the bread and taking the cup
  - Implied: For believers only (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- Notice what is not mentioned
  - No where does it say that a priest or minister must administer the Lords supper.
  - No where does it say how often we should take it.
  - No where does it say it is necessary for salvation.
- Jesus said we take communion as a “\_\_\_\_\_ of Him.” vv 24-25
- Paul says we “\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s death until He comes” when taking communion. v. 26
- Scripture tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves before taking communion. vv. 28,31

- Application: the best way to do this is asking the Holy Spirit to reveal if there is any unconfessed sin in our lives (Psalm 139:23-24) and then confess those before the Lord (1 John 1:9)

### **John 6:51-58**

- At a first glance scripture seems to support a transubstantiation view of communion. However this whole section seems to be an analogy to describe who Jesus is. In fact Jesus uses 7 analogies in the gospel of John (using “I am” statements) to describe who He is:
  - I am the bread of life. (John 6:35)
  - I am the light of the world (8:12)
  - I am the gate for the sheep (10:7)
  - I am the good shepherd (10:11)
  - I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
  - The way, truth and life (14:6)
  - The true vine (15:1)
- Jesus himself indicates in John 6:63 that the words HE had just given in vv. 35-62 were spiritual words.
- The parallel between John 6:40 and 6:54 strongly indicate the analogy (vs. literal) and strongly support \_\_\_\_\_ as the means of salvation (not taking communion). To which other scriptures agree Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Rom. 3:38; Gal. 2:16; 3:11