

HOW CAN A WAFER OF BREAD REALLY BE JESUS?

It can, because Jesus said so. (John 6:51-66 and several other places) I have no doubt a person who can create a universe can do what He says.

A secular survey recently indicated that a large percentage of Catholics do not really believe the Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Secular surveys of this kind tend to find what they want to find and are not necessarily accurate. It does seem, however, that many of our fellow Catholics have a shallow realization of just what happens at Holy Mass and Communion. We all need periodic reeducation especially in this area so central to being Catholic.

St. Paul, (1 Corinthians 11:27) tells us if we receive Holy Communion unworthily we commit a serious offense against Jesus. It is a slap in the face to God to receive Holy Communion while in mortal sin. Willfully missing Sunday Mass or cohabiting without Christian marriage is mortal sin. We cannot decide about that for ourselves. If Eucharist were only a symbol of our union with Christ, St. Paul would not be so concerned about sacrilege.

At the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:17-20) Jesus tells us, “This **is** my Body”. There is nothing at all to indicate He meant it symbolically, or even as a prayer of faith. Jesus said it’s His Body and it really is; believe it or not, it still is. He then told the apostles, and the Church, to keep doing it in re-membrance of Him. We are physical re-members of His Body and He of us.

In John 6:51 Jesus says, “I am the Bread that comes from heaven. Whoever eats this Bread will live forever.” Vs. 53>, “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you do not have life in you. My flesh is true food, My Blood is true drink.”

Many of His disciples, like people today, had a hard time with this teaching. As a result many abandoned Jesus. Notice that Jesus did not call them back saying, “hey, fellows, come back. I only meant this symbolically.” No. He kept insisting He meant it the way He said it.

So has our Catholic Church for 2000 years. We bow or genuflect and worship before the tabernacle because Jesus in the flesh is really present. It’s not a piece of bread that we receive and worship; it is Jesus, the Eternal Son of God, Creator of all that is, whom we love and adore in Holy Communion. Jesus tells us so and He can do anything.