

Body and Blood of Christ



Body & Blood

- We believe what Jesus said:
 - Jn 6:51-56
 - I am the living bread that came down from heaven...
 - Whoever eats this bread will live forever
 - His followers rejected him (Jn 6:60, 66)
 - He was willing to lose all his followers for the Eucharist (Jn 6:68)
- Jesus
 - Body meant very self
 - Blood meant life
 - Bread = person
 - Wine=life



Hebrew Scriptures Foreshadow

- Passover:
 - Lamb's blood on the lintel
 - Ate unleavened bread
 - Commemorates the Passover every year (Exodus 12:1-28; Deut 16:1-8)
 - Lamb fed the Israelites for their Passover into Egypt
- Sustained by Manna in the desert (Jn: 6:49-51)
- Melchizedek offers unbloody sacrifice (Gen 14:18-20) cited by Paul in 1Cor 10:1-4



New Testament



- Paul
 - 1 Cor 10-16
 - 1Cor 11:23-26
 - 1Cor 11:27-30
- Matthew 26:26-30
- Mark 14:22-25
- Luke 22:19-20
- John Chapter 6

Early Church

- End 1st C St Ignatius of Antioch-Eucharist is the flesh of our savior
- 150 Justin Martyr- Eucharist is received as the flesh and blood of Jesus who was made flesh (1st Apology Chap 66)
- 4 C Cyril of Jerusalem- Jesus changed water into wine...could he not also change bread & wine into his body and blood?



New Covenant: Eucharist



- Strengthens our bond of love and friendship with Jesus
- Invites us into intimate union with Jesus both physical and spiritual
- The Trinity makes us God's dwelling place (Jn 14:23, Jn 14:17)
- One Body
 - We become one with Jesus and the entire body of Christ (Vine & the branches Jn 15:4-5)
 - As one body we are joined to each other by love for Jesus and service to each other (1Cor 10:16-17)

Reflection

- Why did Jesus choose a meal for us to remember him?
- Why bread and wine?
- What does it mean to grow in union with Jesus?
- Why is it important to us that we become God's dwelling place?
- What does it mean to be one body with all who eat and drink from the same table we do?
- How can we live out this new covenant with Jesus?