

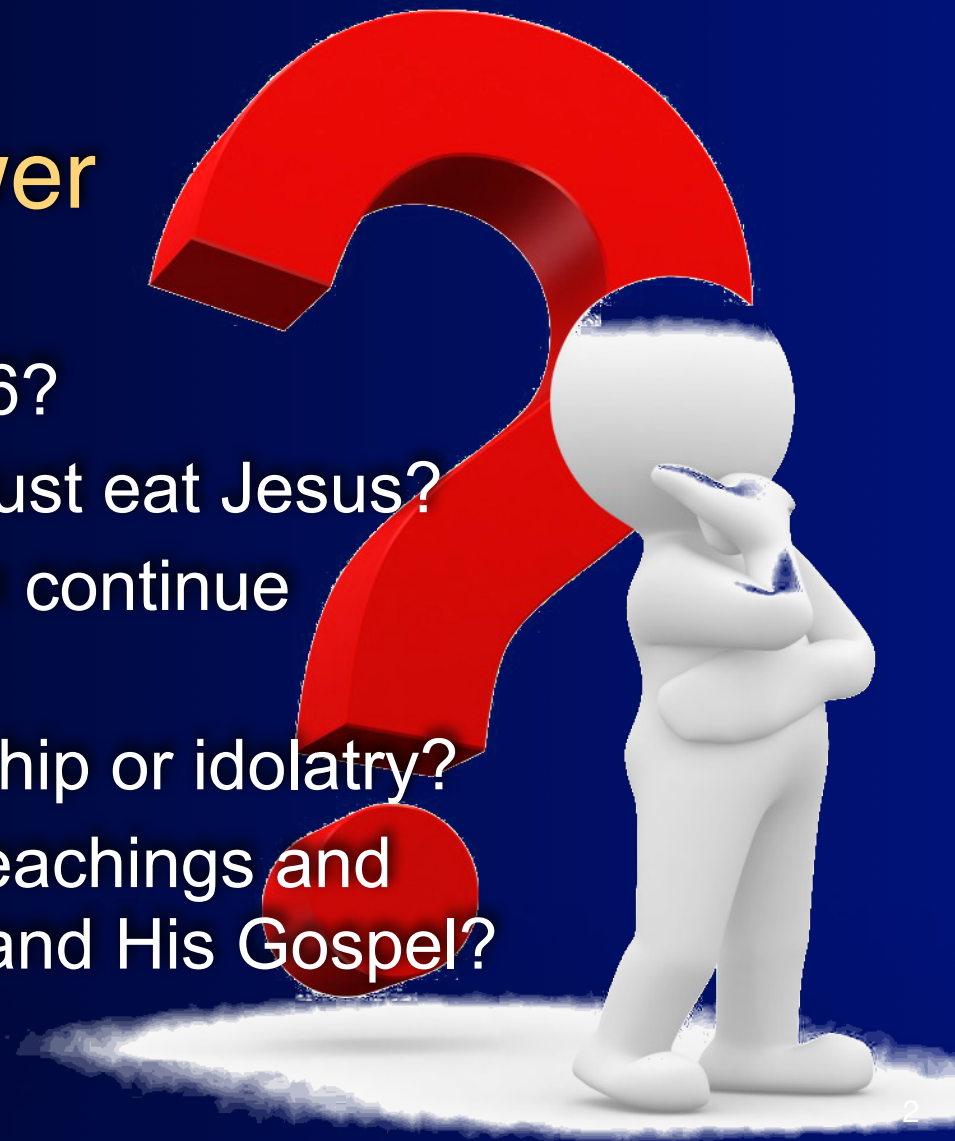
# **The Controversial Bread of Life**

## **John 6:26-69**

**Evangelist Mike Gendron**  
**Countryside Bible Church**  
**Omega Class**

# Questions We Will Answer

- Is the Catholic Eucharist in John 6?
- Why Do Catholics believe they must eat Jesus?
- Why does the work of redemption continue on Catholic altars?
- Is Eucharistic adoration true worship or idolatry?
- How can we refute these errant teachings and point Catholics to the true Christ and His Gospel?







## **The Bread of Life Discourse Has Six Contrasts**

- **Two motivations to follow Jesus**
- **Two groups of disciples**
- **Two types of language**
- **Two kinds of work**
- **Two kinds of bread**
- **Two responses to Jesus**

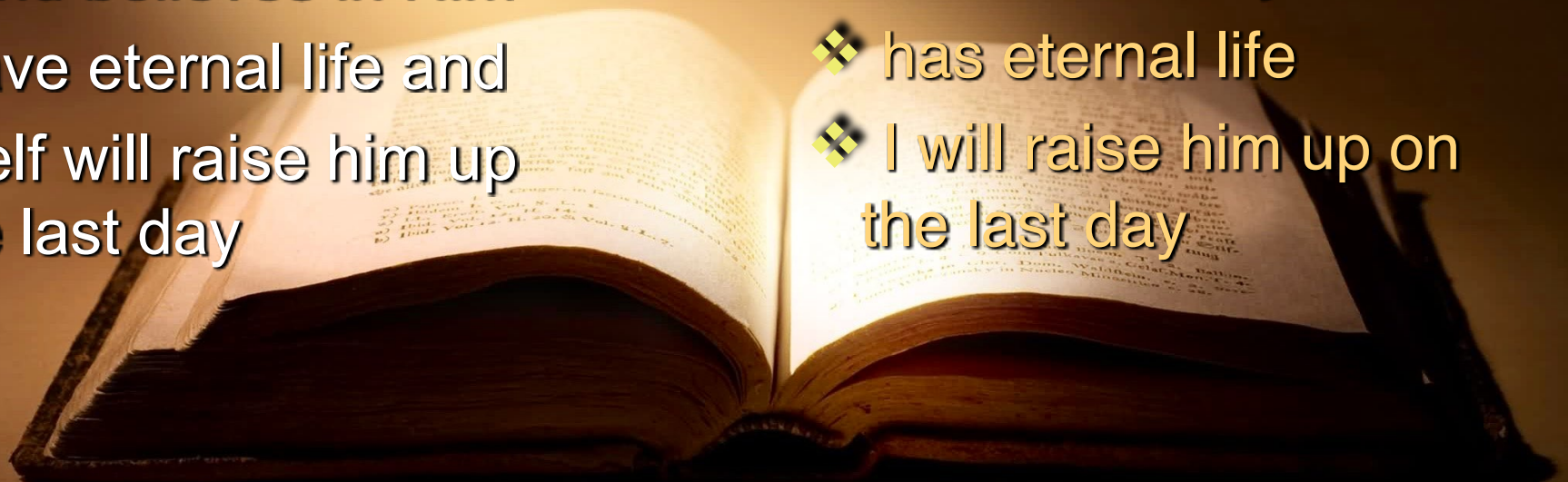
# Literal or Figurative?

## *John 6:40*

- everyone who behold the Son and believes in Him
- will have eternal life and
- I myself will raise him up on the last day

## *John 6:54*

- ❖ whoever feeds on my flesh drinks my blood
- ❖ has eternal life
- ❖ I will raise him up on the last day





FOR MY FLESH

QUI MANDUCAT

IS TRUE FOOD

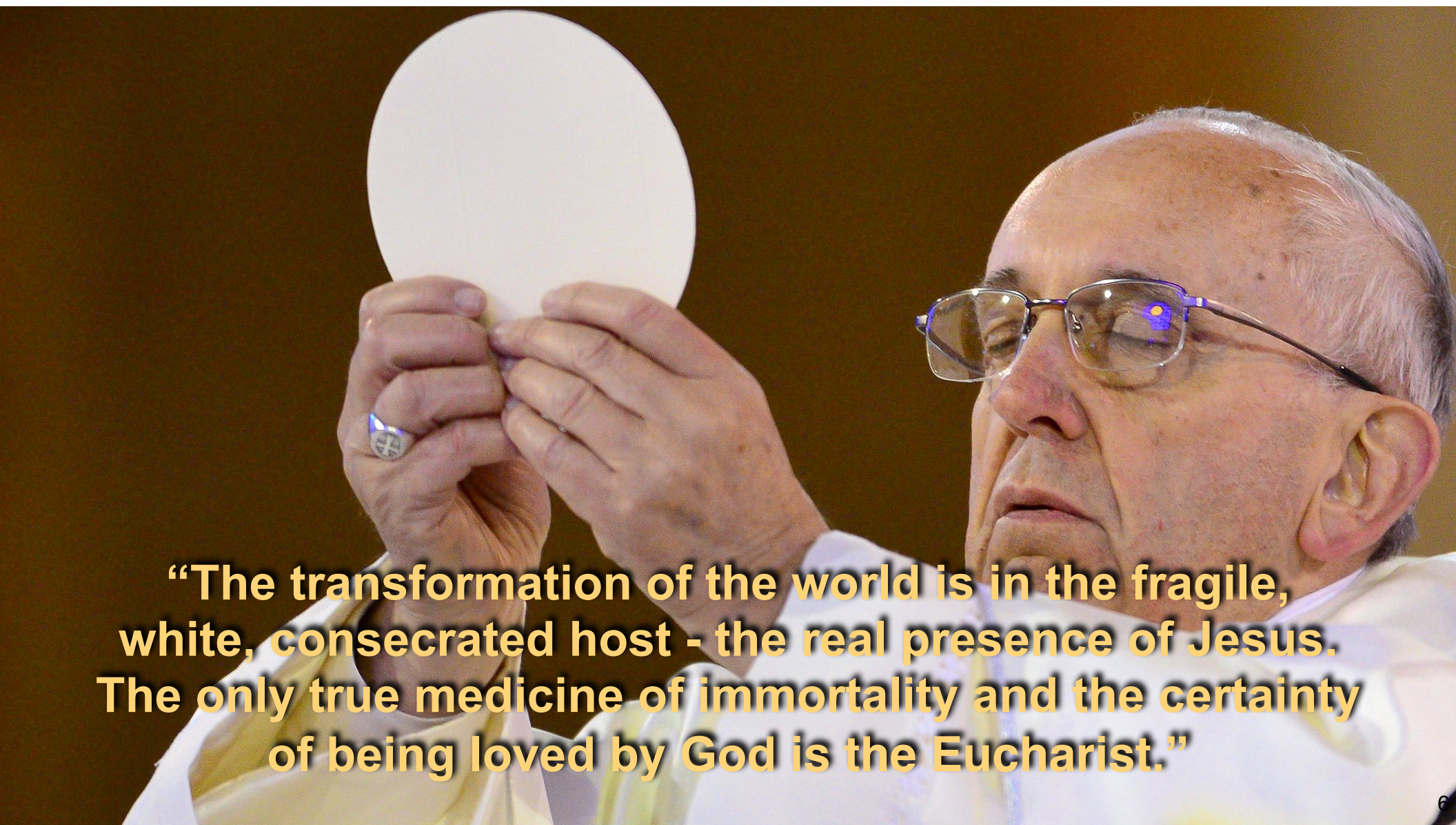
MEAM CARNEM

## The Eucharist

**"In the Eucharist the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained." (CCC, 1374)**

JOHN 6:55





**“The transformation of the world is in the fragile, white, consecrated host - the real presence of Jesus. The only true medicine of immortality and the certainty of being loved by God is the Eucharist.”**





“Fix our gaze on the holy Host and thus on God. The Creator and Lord of all things was made a grain of wheat in order to be sown on earth. He was made bread to be broken, shared, eaten; he was made our food to give us his own divine life.”

Pope Benedict



A portrait of Charles Spurgeon, a man with a full beard and dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer. The background is dark and indistinct.

## Charles Spurgeon

“There are millions of people who accept so monstrous an error...and believe in literally feeding upon the body of the Lord Jesus? This is probably the highest point of profane absurdity to which superstition has yet reached - that such an act of cannibalism [as to] eating the flesh of Christ could convey grace to the person guilty of such a horror!”

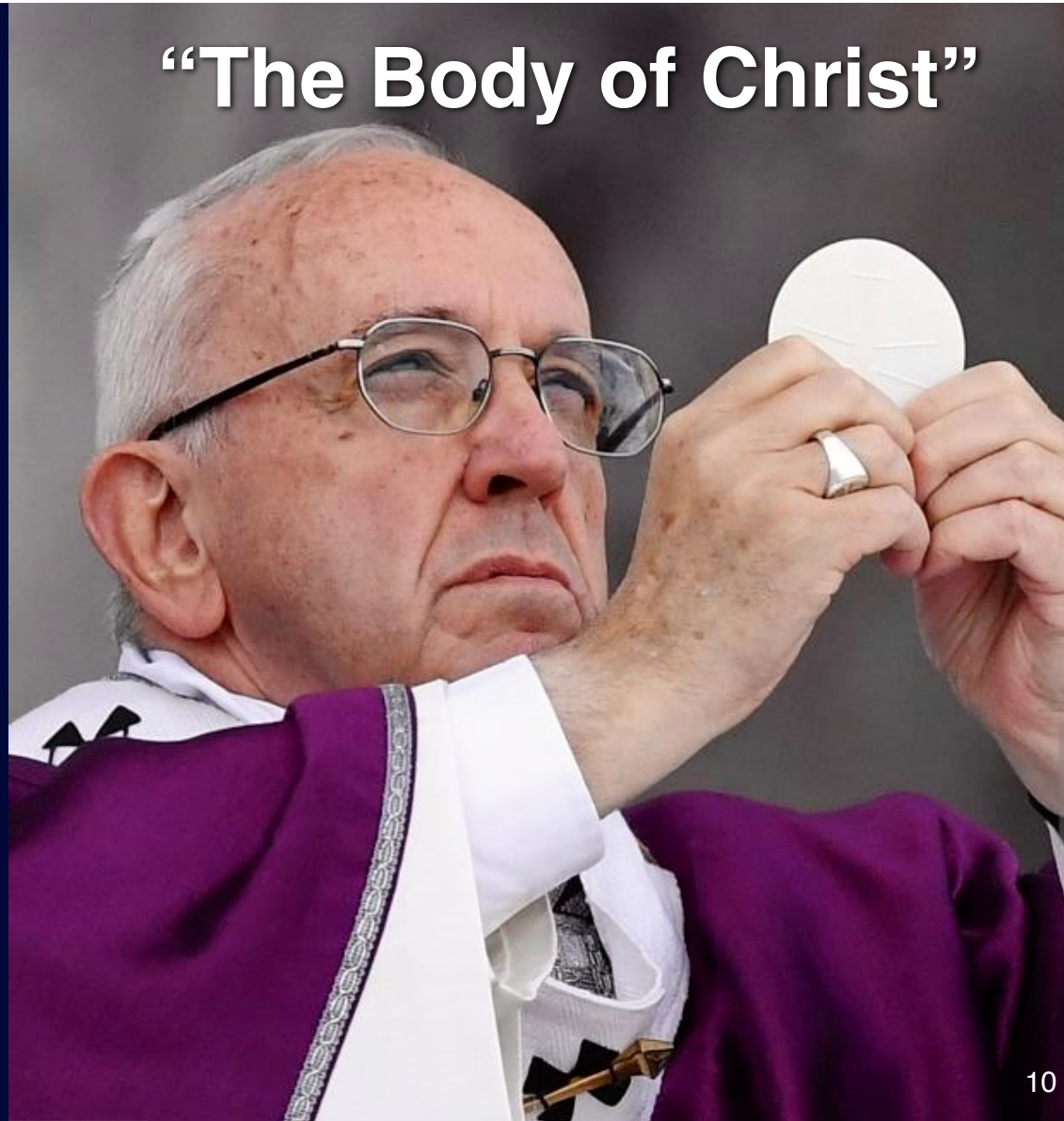
# The Faith of Millions

When the priest announces the words of consecration, he reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places Him upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man. It is a power greater than that of saints and angels. The priest speaks and lo! Christ, the eternal and omnipotent God, bows his head in humble obedience to the priest's command."

- Priest John O'Brien

**Jesus  
warned, “If  
anyone  
says to you,  
‘behold  
here is the  
Christ’ do  
not believe  
him.”  
(Mat. 24:23).**

**“The Body of Christ”**

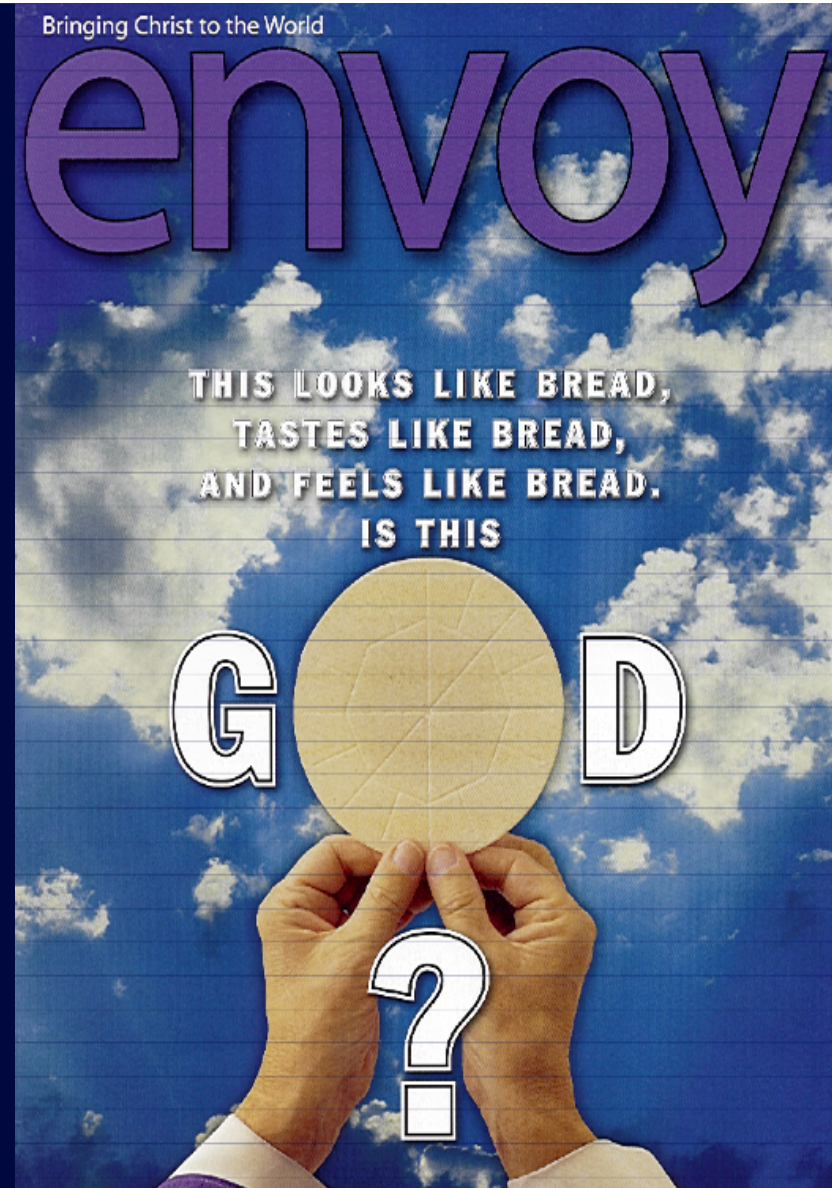




# The God of Catholicism


Is worshipping a piece of bread as Jesus any different than the Israelites worshipping a golden calf as God?

Both are serious sins of idolatry.





# The God of the Israelites



“This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Ex. 32:4)  
Our Holy God had 3000 Israelites put to death for the sin of idolatry.



## Golden Calf

“The cause of all idolatry is the natural corruption of man's heart... a craving after something he can see, feel, and touch, to bring his God down to his own crawling level... a thing of sense and sight... to give God a sensual, carnal worship by devising visible helps... and to give these inventions ...the honor due to Him.” J.C. Ryle, 1877

## Eucharist



# The Sacrifice of the Mass

The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice: "The victim is one and the same...the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner... this sacrifice is truly propitiatory." (CCC, 1367)



# They Are Not the Same Sacrifice

## *Calvary*

📖 offered by the sinless son of God

📖 for the living

📖 one perfect, finished, sufficient sacrifice

📖 for all sin

📖 bloody

📖 unrepeatable

## *Sacrifice of the Mass*

- offered by sinful men
- for the living and dead
- thousands of daily offerings are insufficient
- for “past sins”
- bloodless
- must be continued

# Catholicism Denies the Work of Christ's Redemption is Finished

“Every time this mystery is celebrated, the work of our redemption is carried on.” (CCC, 1405)







## The Bread of Life Discourse

- The words Jesus spoke were spirit and life, the flesh profits nothing (Jn. 6:63).
- Jesus had the words (not the flesh) of eternal life (Jn. 6:68).
- Jesus often spoke figuratively or in parables in mixed crowds of believers and unbelievers (Mat. 13).



# Why and When Did Jesus Speak in Parables?

- “Because it is given unto you (believers) to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them (unbelievers) it is not given” (Mat. 13:10).
- Jesus spoke in parables so that hard-hearted men may perceive and not understand.



The background of the slide is a classical-style painting depicting a vast crowd of people in a rugged, hilly landscape. The figures are dressed in traditional robes, and the scene is filled with a sense of movement and gathering. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the painting.

# Unbelievers Had a Wrong Motivation

- Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves” (John 6:26).
- The multitude that Jesus fed is now seeking Him on other side of the sea in the town of Capernaum.



# Hung Up on Religious Works

- The religious leaders asked a profound question. "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (John 6:28)
- They were convinced they must do **DO** something to merit eternal life instead of trusting what God has **DONE**



## The Work of God

- Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent”(John 6:29).
- Notice that the work of God is not to “eat” the body and blood of Jesus but to “believe” in Him.

Faith



# Come and Believe

- Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me **shall not hunger**, and whoever believes in me **shall never thirst**” (John 6:35).
- Clearly, He is not speaking literally, because His followers will always get hungry and thirsty. He's talking figuratively about **spiritual** nourishment that will keep the soul from thirsting and hungering.



# Man's Inability

- Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:44).
- Unbelievers will not come to Jesus without a divine, supernatural awakening. They are spiritually blind, (2 Cor. 4:4), dead in sin (Eph. 2:1), unable to understand spiritual truth (1 Cor. 2:14) and held captive by the devil to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26).





## A Contrast of Two Kinds of Bread

- “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die” (John 6:48-50).
- Manna could not produce or sustain life, but Jesus, the Bread of Life, can do both.



# The Offer of Eternal Life



- “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that **I will give** for the life of the world is my flesh” (John 6:51).
- Jesus is referring to the impending sacrifice of His crucified body of flesh that will satisfy divine justice for all who repent and believe His Gospel.



# Eating is Analogous to Receiving Christ by Faith

1. Just as food is useless unless it is consumed, so is spiritual truth unless it is believed and internalized.
2. Eating is prompted by hunger.
3. Food becomes part of us through the digestive system.
4. Eating involves trust - that the food is edible and not spoiled.
5. No one can eat food for someone else.

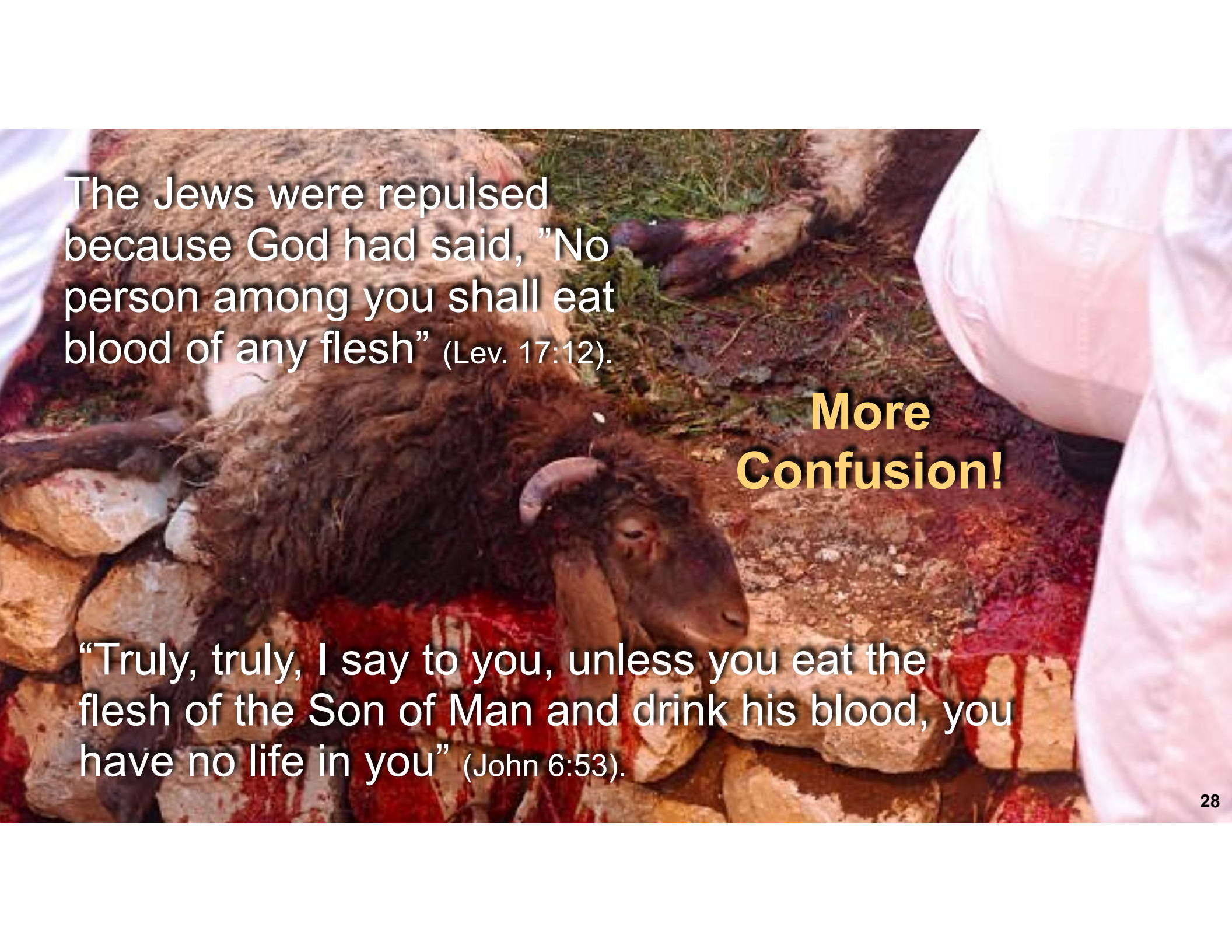




## Blinded by Willful Ignorance

- The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” (John 6:52).
- Satan blinds people with religious pride. Did they really think people had to become cannibals for eternal life?





The Jews were repulsed because God had said, "No person among you shall eat blood of any flesh" (Lev. 17:12).

**More  
Confusion!**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (John 6:53).



# **Jesus is Not Referring to the Eucharist**

- 1. The Lord's Supper had not taken place yet**
- 2. Communion is not for unbelievers**
- 3. Receiving communion does not promise eternal life**
- 4. Jews would not have understood the sacrament of communion**
- 5. In verse 51, the verbs translated “eat and drink” suggest a one time appropriation of Christ.**





## The Lord's Table is a Memorial, not a Sacrifice

Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 24:19).

*Why would Catholics need to remember Jesus if He is physically present in the Eucharist?*



# Three Great Promises!

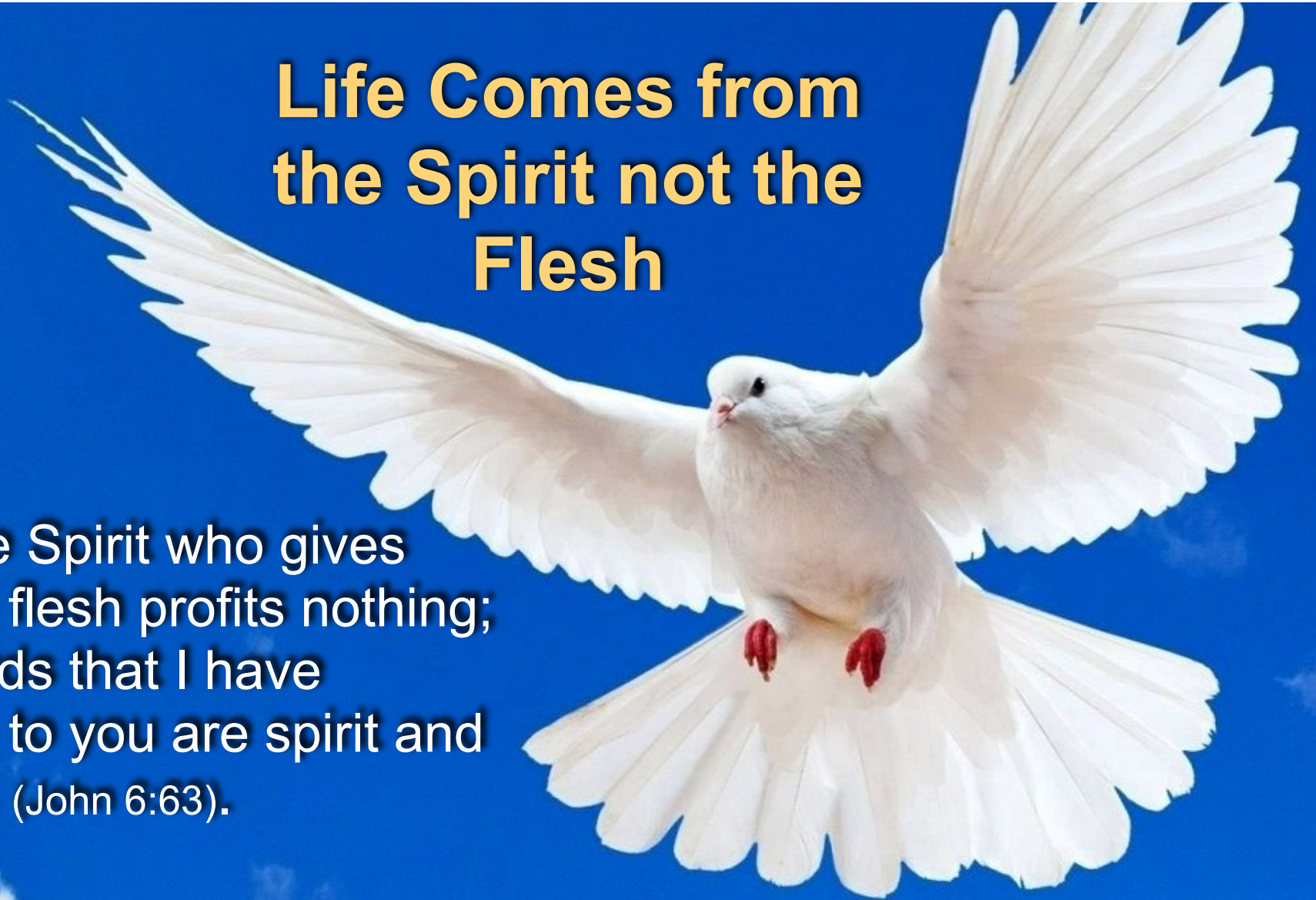
T R U S T

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has **eternal life**, and I will **raise him up** on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me, and I in him** (John 6:54-56).



# Life Comes from the Spirit not the Flesh

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (John 6:63).







# The Omniscience of Christ

- “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him (John 6:64).
- Religious indoctrination is one of the most powerful tools that Satan uses to blind people from the truth.



# Apostasy Is Fatal

Jesus said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him (John 6:65-66).



# To Whom Shall We Go?

So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the **words** of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God” (John 6:67-69).





# **By the Authority of Scripture Jesus Does Not Return in the Eucharist**


- He “must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything.” (Acts 3:21)
- He will return to the Mt. of Olives, after the tribulation with power and great glory.
- He will return in a body, the same way He went to heaven. (Mat. 24:27-30; Acts 1:11)



# The Return of Jesus

- He “will appear a second time.” (Heb. 9:28) **He does not return everyday in the Eucharist.**
- His second appearance is “**not to deal with sin**” because He was already “offered once to bear the sins of many.” (Heb. 9:28)





## Which Jesus?

### Catholic Jesus

- forgives past sins for conditional life
- work of redemption continues
- is offered daily on an altar
- provides uncertainty, fear, and doubt

### True Jesus

- forgives all sins for eternal life
- work of redemption is finished
- was offered once on a cross
- provides peace, security and assurance

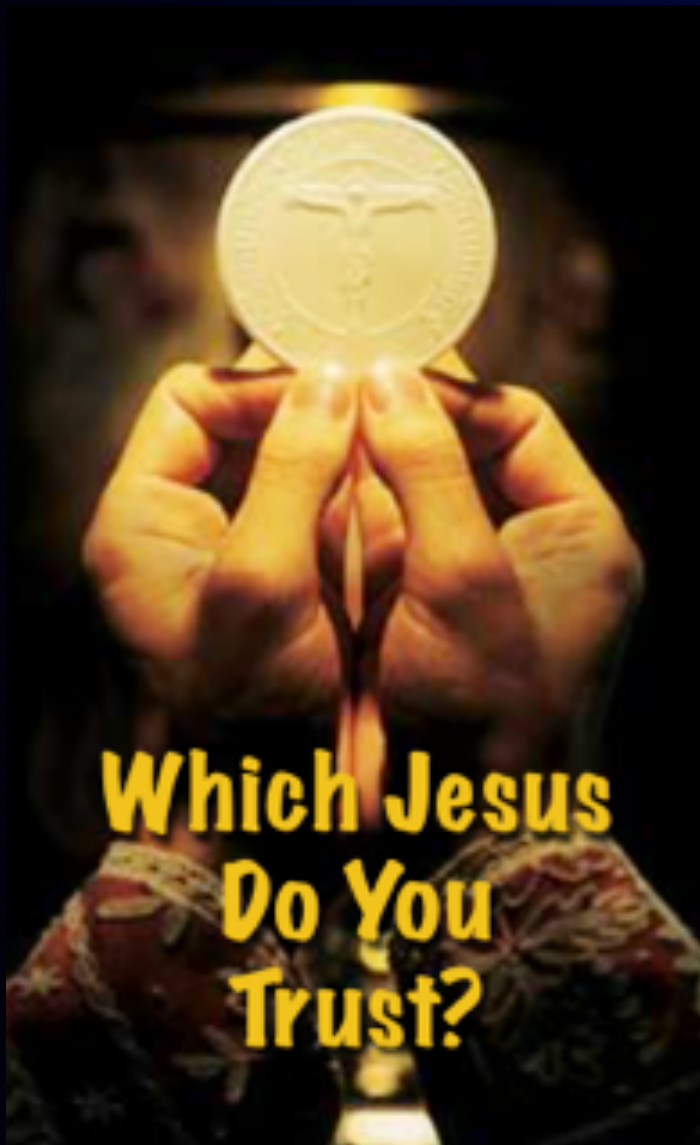




# What Shall We Do?

- Recognize the importance of interpreting the Word of God accurately, using a proper literal, historical, grammatical, and contextual hermeneutic.
- Lovingly correct Catholics who are worshipping a counterfeit Christ and believing a false and fatal gospel.
- Compassionately challenge Catholics in their unbelief.
- Faithfully sow the seed of God's Word!





An excellent Gospel tract that contrasts 7 differences between the Eucharistic Christ of Rome and the all-sufficient Christ of the Bible.