

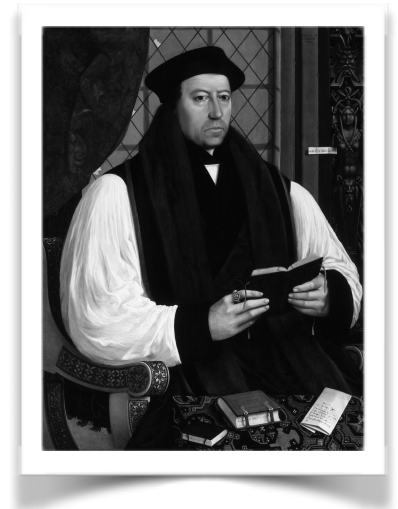
Thomas Cranmer and the Lord's Supper

Why this is an important issue

The Lord's Supper is:

A Divine Instrument of Assurance

- Prayer for purity
- Ten Commandments
- Readings & sermon
- Public confession
- Words of comfort
- Receive the bread & wine
- Lord's Prayer, thanksgiving, hymn



Thank God "that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his Passion."

An Invitation to Feed on Christ

"Dearly beloved in the Lord: ye that mind to come to the holy Communion of the body and blood of our saviour Christ, must consider what St. Paul writeth to the Corinthians, how he exhorteth all persons diligently to try and examine themselves, before they presume to eat of that bread, and drink of that cup: for **as the benefit is great**, if with a truly penitent heart and lively faith, we receive that holy Sacrament (for then we **spiritually** eat the flesh of Christ, and drink his blood, then we dwell in Christ and Christ in us, we be one with Christ, and Christ with us); **so is the danger great**, if we receive the same unworthily. For then we be guilty of the body and blood of Christ our saviour. We eat and drink our own damnation, not considering the Lord's body. We kindle God's wrath against us, we provoke him to plague us with divers diseases, and sundry kinds of death."

"Take and eat this
in remembrance that Christ died for thee,
and feed on him in your heart,
by faith, with thanksgiving."

Guarding against:

An Insufficient Atonement

Almighty God, our heavenly father, which of thy tender mercy didst give thine only son Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who made **there** (by his **one oblation** of himself **once offered**) a **full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world**, and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual **memory** of that his precious death, until his coming again.

An Unreal Incarnation

For as concerning the Sacramental bread and wine, they remain still in their very natural substance, and therefore may not be adored, for that were Idolatry to be abhorred of all faithful Christians. And so concerning the natural body and blood of our saviour Christ, they are in heaven and not here. For it is against the truth of Christ's true natural body, to be in more places than in one, at one time.

(The Black Rubric)

Transubstantiation (the change of the substance of the bread and wine) in the Supper of the Lord cannot be proved from holy Scripture, but is repugnant to the plain teaching of Scripture. It overthrows the nature of a sacrament and has given rise to many superstitions. The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper only in a heavenly and spiritual manner. The means by which the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

(Article 28)

Superstitious Idolatry

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not instituted by Christ to be reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.

(Article 28)

“Here we should not imagine some magic incantation, supposing it enough to have mumbled the words, as if they were to be heard by the elements; but let us understand that these words are living preaching which edifies its hearers, penetrates into their minds, impresses itself upon their hearts and settles there.”

— Calvin, *Institutes* 4.17.39

