

QUERIES AND INQUIRES

1. A Lutheran pastor said that the words for communion – “The body of Christ given for you ...the blood of Christ shed for you” – mean that we really eat Jesus’ flesh and drink his blood . What kind of “real” is this?

John 6: 53: “So Jesus said to them, “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.”

Christ is really present in the bread and wine, but the bread and wine remain bread and wine:

“We believe, teach, and confess that with the bread and wine the body and blood of Christ are received not only spiritually, by faith, but also orally – however, not in a Capernaite manner, but because of the sacramental union in a supernatural and heavenly manner.”

(Book of Concord, Epitome, Article VII, Tappert edition p. 483:15; Kolb edition, p. 506:15)

2. Roman Catholic Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, head of the Vatican’s Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, recently said Christians “have many things in common with other believers – for example, that we all believe in one God...” Do we really all believe in one God?

There is no agreement about “God” among the many religions. For Jews Yahweh is not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For **Muslims** there is no God but Allah. Although Christians say God is three-in-one, Muslims insist that God’s Son is a second God and that therefore Christians are idolaters.

Buddhists are basically atheists. For Buddhists there are ultimately no distinctions between humanity and God, between evil and good.

Hinduism has 330 million gods, and when Hindus say there is one God – Brahman – this is an impersonal force, nothing like the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The leaders of each of these religions are polite and diplomatic when the TV cameras focus on them, but make no mistake, they each exclude the others.

Why does the high-ranking Vatican official say something so misleading as: “We all believe in one God”? It is the dark side of the Vatican game of playing all sides.

(For concise summaries of major religions see www.bbc.co.uk.com/religion/religions.)

3. Anna Quindlen, Newsweek columnist, says that the polygamy issue is over and done with. She says: The younger you are the more likely you are to know someone who is polygamous. The more likely you are to know someone who is polygamous, the more likely you are to support polygamy. The opposition is aging out.

Opps, sorry – wrong issue. She says that the gay-sex issue is over. Is she right about the future?

In the Judeo-Christian West, monogamy is tied to the recognition that only two people, one man and one woman – no more, no less – can generate children.

Moreover, the evidence of the social sciences is overwhelming: **Children do best raised by a mother and father in a low-conflict home.**

Two lesbians cannot do that. They have to get “their” children through a sperm donor – a third party. Thus lesbian “families” **intentionally** deny children a father – even as they use a man to generate children.

The same is true for gay “families.” They **intentionally** deny children a mother. This also is harmful to kids.

Moreover, if gay marriage is accepted, why not polygamy? If marriage is about “love” and “consenting adults,” there is no logical reason to confine it to couples and pairs drawn from different sexes.

Polygamy is gaining acceptance. Some Mormons and many Muslims practice it. And lesbian “families” sometimes include in some way the sperm-donating men who created the children for the lesbians to raise.

All of these alternate “families” have harmful consequences for children.

4. Should pastors be paid or tipped for weddings and funerals?

Tipping pastors is inappropriate. Whether or not they are to be paid depends on whether the wedding/funeral is for a member or non-member.

Pastors should officiate at weddings and funerals for members as part of their call – for no payment or tip.

For non-members pastors should be paid \$200 to \$300 or more because, even if the pastor uses material from a previous wedding or funeral, these events require at least 10 hours of the pastor’s time.