

1534 Affair of the Placards: *These were printed and posted on buildings and doors throughout Paris and Loire Valley, including on King Francis I's bedroom door. The central argument rejects the Catholic theory of the Mass as a "re-enactment" of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. The result was a massive crackdown on religious dissidents; thirty- five people were burned at the stake.*

A true account of the horrible, great and unbearable abuses of the Papal Mass, invented specifically contrary to the Last Supper of Jesus Christ.

I invoke heaven and earth in witness of the truth, against that pompous and vain Papal Mass by which the world is and will be – unless God comes to our rescue – totally ruined, despoiled, destroyed and desolated, since in it our Lord is so outrageously blasphemed and the public misled and blinded...

Jesus Christ gave his body, his soul, his life and his blood for our sanctification in the most perfect sacrifice, which may not and must not ever be repeated by any visible sacrifice, lest such a sacrifice eliminate the true one [*the Crucifixion*] as ineffectual, insufficient and imperfect... Yet the world has been and still is now, in many places, laden and filled with wretches who perform such a sacrifice. These men set themselves in the place of Jesus Christ as though they were our redeemers...

In this wretched Mass, almost the whole populace has been induced to public idolatry since they have been falsely given to understand that, under the form of bread and wine, Jesus Christ is bodily and actually contained and hidden, in person, in flesh and bones as if He were now alive... But Jesus Christ rose to heaven, seated to the right of God the Father.... It follows that if His body is in heaven, it is not at the same time on earth, for a real body is never in more than one place at a time.

Those miserable sacrificers have in their frenzy taught that it shall no longer be bread or wine, but since they speak those great and miraculous words, by transubstantiation Jesus Christ is hidden and enveloped beneath the appearance of the bread and wine, which is a diabolical doctrine, against all truth and contrary to Scripture. I ask those fat hooded ones where they found or discovered that big word "transubstantiation"? St. Paul, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and the ancient fathers did not speak in this manner.

Who then can any longer tolerate or bear or endure such mockers, such evil-doers, such Antichrists? The fruit of Jesus Last Supper is to profess one's faith publicly and with secure confidence of salvation... But the fruit of the Mass is very different, for through it all knowledge of Jesus Christ is wiped out, the preaching of the Gospel is cast out and forbidden, the time is filled with bells, shouting, chants, ceremonies, lights, incense burning, disguises and other monkey business, by which the poor public is misled as thoroughly as lambs or sheep and by these ravening wolves they are gnawed, eaten and devoured. Through this Mass they have taken hold of everything, destroyed everything, swallowed everything, disinherited princes and kings, merchants and lords... By this Mass they live without care, they need to do nothing, let alone study. It is not to be marveled at if they vigorously uphold it; they kill, they burn, they destroy, they torment like bandits all those who contradict them, for they have no recourse but force. Truth they have not; truth threatens them; truth follows and pursues them; truth terrifies them, and by it they will soon be destroyed.

The Placards were printed anonymously, but have been attributed to Antoine Marcourt, a Frenchman who travelled to Switzerland and had been a follower of Zwingli