

Cannibalism?

John 6:52 The Jews therefore **strove among** themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* **flesh to eat?** 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except** ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, **ye have no life in you.** 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **hath eternal life;** and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is **meat indeed,** and my blood is **drink indeed.** 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth in me, and I in him.** 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he **shall live by me.** 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread **shall live for ever.** 59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

- Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience who refused to believe that He was God and could give them eternal life
- The thought of eating human flesh or drinking blood was diametrically opposed to all that they believed or understood

- The early church was considered a cult because of teachings like this one-they ate flesh and drank blood?
- When you want to reject Jesus and what He teaches you can find plenty of reasons-This teaching is picture just like the living water and the new birth

1. The promises if they would eat His flesh and drink His blood
 - a. If you eat and drink you have **eternal life** 54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
 - b. If you eat and drink **He will raise you up** at the last day
 - c. Eating and drinking **we dwell in Him and He in us** 56 *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*
 - d. **We live by Him**, He becomes our life 57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*
 - e. He that eats and drinks **will live forever** 58 *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

f. If you do not eat and drink you do not have life **53** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except** ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, **ye have no life in you.**

g. Every one of the promises is what happens when you are a true believer in Jesus Christ

2. Truth often causes fights **52** The Jews therefore **strove among** themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his flesh to eat?*

a. They were arguing and fighting because Jesus said He was going to give His flesh for the world **6:48-51** **I am that bread of life.** **49** Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. **50** This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. **51** **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven: if any **man eat of this bread**, he shall live for ever: and the bread that **I will give is my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world.

i. Jesus said He was the bread of life

- ii. He said that if you would eat of the bread that came down from heaven (Him) you could live forever
- iii. He said He was giving His flesh for the life of the world
- b. Jesus doesn't try to soften the truth but instead makes it harder 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except** ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, **ye have no life in you.**
 - i. You either will eat and drink or you will die
 - ii. Jews knew better than to eat or drink blood
 - iii. What is He trying to say?
- c. The confusion was over a spiritual truth (illustration) that they saw as a literal truth (physical)-just like what happened with the new birth and how Nicodemus couldn't understand or the living water with the Samaritan woman
- d. Do we want to soften the truth to get people to accept it?
 - i. Not emphasize that they are sinners
 - ii. Allow them to think that Jesus will make everything right here on this earth
 - iii. Try to not look strange to them so they will accept us?
 - iv. Explain away baptism, the Lord's Supper, sacrificial living, giving

- v. Try not to look like a fanatic
 - vi. It seems we have been more concerned about what people think than what the Lord Himself thinks
 - e. Jesus does just the opposite. He takes it a step further, deeper, and what seemed weirder to them. He wasn't trying to fit it in with their culture at all
 - f. Should you quit being embarrassed by the truth and embrace it and who you are in Christ?
3. What does it mean to eat His flesh and drink His blood
- a. It is not the Lord's Supper or Communion

I Corinthians 11:23-26 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: **24** And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body**, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.** **25** After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood:** this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in **remembrance of me.** **26** For as often as ye eat

this bread, and drink this cup, ye do **shew the Lord's death till he come.**

- i. Why would He be discussing this special time of fellowship with unbelievers?
 1. They have no desire to remember Him but rather to kill Him
 2. They are not looking for His coming
 3. They do not want to tell people of His death that they do not even yet understand
 4. They certainly don't understand that He will die, be buried, and rise again nor that He will come back from Heaven
- ii. He had not yet even shared the Lord's Supper or truths about it with the disciples
- iii. Eating and drinking were essential to eternal life yet the Lord's Supper is just an expression of our faith **53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**
- iv. There is nothing you must do to be saved but receive the free gift of God

- v. The bread and juice do not literally become the body and blood of Jesus
 - vi. They are symbols that we use to worship Him. He is not in the bread and He is not present in any way more than He is at all times. We are remembering, looking for His coming, and worshipping
- b. Eating and drinking food means you take it in and it becomes a literal part of you
 - c. Truths learned by comparing believing to eating and drinking
 - i. The food is useless unless eaten and so you will have to believe and act on the truth about Jesus
 - ii. We eat because we are hungry. If you are hungry and needy all you must do is believe
 - iii. Eating and drinking involves trust or you would not eat
 - iv. You must eat for yourself
 - d. Have you placed your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?

4. Are you feeding on Jesus?

- a. It means to believe on Him **29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on**

him whom he hath sent. 35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that **believeth on me** shall never thirst. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believeth on me** hath everlasting life.

- b. Faith is expressed in several terms in the passage
 - i. We are to come to Him 35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that **cometh to me** shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
 - ii. We are to look at Him 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which **seeth the Son**, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
 - iii. We are to hear and learn 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath **heard**, and hath **learned** of the Father, cometh unto me.
- c. Faith should be as real to you as literal eating and drinking
- d. What happens when you have real faith in Jesus
 - i. You will be certain of your salvation
 - ii. Your life will be completely transformed

- iii. What you focus on changes you
- e. Have you seen, heard, come, and believed the truths of the gospel? Have these truths become real to you in your heart?

5. Bottom line

- a. Eating and drinking implies complete commitment-you wouldn't compare a half hearted faith to eating and drinking his body and blood
- b. Eating and drinking implies being consumed with Jesus and His truth. It eats you alive as you eat it
- c. Eating and drinking implies that it is an essential part of you that you can't live without
- d. Eating and drinking implies complete and full surrender-you are all the way in, no turning back
- e. Is that true about you

