



Knowing Christ

Flesh and Blood



Review

- ^{NAS} **John 6:48** "I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."



Overview

The Complaint

- ^{NIV} **John 6:52** Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Taking It Up a Notch

- ^{NAS} **John 6:53** Jesus therefore 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 yourselves. ⁵⁴ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

The Problem with the Blood

- **ESV Genesis 9:4** But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.
- **ESV Leviticus 17:13** "Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. ¹⁴ For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.
- **ESV Deuteronomy 12:23** Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.

End of Discussion

- ^{NAS} **John 6:56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. ⁵⁸ "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever."

Key Details

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- ^{NAS} **John 6:53** Jesus therefore 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 yourselves. ⁵⁴ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

Orthodox and Catholic View

- “The eucharistic significance of this passage is indisputable. Our Lord’s declaration that He is Himself the living bread that gives life reveals the Mystical Supper of the NT Church. John never reports the details of the Last Supper; instead, he reveals the significance and truth of these events (events that were already known to his hearers) by reporting here Christ’s own words”.
 - *Orthodox Study Bible*
- “Our Lord says “The bread which I will give, is My flesh for the life of the world.” But the spiritual life is the effect of grace. Therefore grace is bestowed through this sacrament”.
 - *Thomas Aquinas*

The Supporting Evidence

- **NAS 1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **NIV 1 Corinthians 10:16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?
 - *fellowship, association, partaking, communion, joint participation*

Protestant View

- “What is meant by eating this flesh and drinking this blood, which is so necessary and beneficial; it is certain that it means neither more nor less than believing in Christ”.
 - *Matthew Henry*
- “Christ, by eating his flesh and drinking his blood, evidently means the same thing that he intends in the same chapter, by believing in him, and coming to him. Compare John vi. 50, 51–54, 56–58,. with verses 29, 30, 35–37, 40, 44, 45, 47, 64, 65”.
 - *Jonathan Edwards*
- “... this statement is not to be read in the light of the Supper but vice-versa”.
 - *Donald Guthrie, New Bible Commentary*

The Solution: Union with Christ

- ^{NAS} **John 6:56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 2:24** As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 4:13** By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Summary

- Eating Christ's flesh and drinking his blood is a reference to our union with Christ.
- Christ lives in us through faith by the working of the Holy Spirit who is the bond of our union with Christ.
- Our faith in and experience of this union is strengthened by the word and Lord's Supper.
- We have eternal life because Christ lives in us and he is the eternal God.
- We live in eternal unity and fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Conclusions

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- ^{NAS} **John 6:56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.
- ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 10:16** Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation [partaking] in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation [partaking] in the body of Christ?
- ^{ESV} **2 Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature ...

Precious and Great Promises

- **NAS 2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,
- **NAS 1 Corinthians 2:9** but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."
- **NAS Ephesians 3:20** Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Safe in Christ

- **NAS John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.
- **NAS Psalm 91:1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" ...⁴ He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.