

What Does Consuming Christ Accomplish?

John 6:52-59

May 4, 2025

Arguing with Jesus in Church.

What does it mean to eat His flesh and to drink His blood?

Is this cannibalism? Transubstantiation? Is it the Lord’s Supper?

Feeding on Jesus by faith saves, sustains, and satisfies.

Trusting Christ Saves v. 53-54

This eating and drinking is a required first step.

This is not a blind leap but a reasoned conviction based on understanding.

This is a gospel invitation and a reasoned dialogue.

What does blood symbolize in the Old Testament?

Why did Jesus put this truth in such graphic language?

Why is “Son of Man” added here?

Trusting Christ Sustains v. 55-56

What is food for? What is its purpose?

Jesus is claiming to meet the deepest needs of true human life.

His flesh and blood are true food and drink.

To devour or consume Jesus is to take Him, His life, death, teaching, forgiveness, grace, and make it the central part of who you are.

We should feed often. Read and mediate, chew on, the Word of God.

Trusting Christ Satisfies v. 57

Warm butter and bread fresh from the oven satisfies!

Our hearts and minds were created to fellowship with the Almighty God!!

“You made us to hunger for You, and our starving souls find no nourishment until they feast on You.” Carter/Wredberg

Eternal life is more than living forever. It is a kind or quality of life.

‘Believe, and you have eaten.’ Augustine

Meditation

For Jesus eating is *believing*; drinking is *believing*. He promises eternal life to those who *believe* in Him. Believe what? Well, believe everything He says. But, specifically here, believe that His death—the breaking of His body and spilling of His blood—pays in full the penalty for our sin and that His perfect righteousness is freely given to us in exchange for our unrighteousness. That is what John 3:16 means.

Believing this is how we “eat” Jesus’ flesh and “drink” His blood. This is precisely why He instituted the Lord’s Supper: He did not want us to forget the very core of what we believe about Him. When the crowd took offense at His hard words, Jesus said, “The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and Life. But there are some of you who do not *believe*” (v. 63-64). Some of the Lord’s hard words are designed expose unbelief.

Peter likely did not fully understand what Jesus meant at the time—just like there are plenty of things we don’t fully understand. But Peter didn’t walk away. Instead he said to Jesus, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have *believed*, and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God” (v. 68-69). Let’s you and I imitate Peter.

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