

Flesh and Blood or Bread and Wine



Verse in Question



- ❧ “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)
- ❧ Claim:
 - ❧ The Lord Christ denies the importance of His flesh
 - ❧ Words are meant to be taken spiritually

John 6 Overview



- ❧ The Lord Jesus feeds the 5000 (vs. 1-14)
- ❧ The Lord Christ goes to the mountain and disciples sail to Capernaum (vs. 15-19)
- ❧ The next day, the people look for the Lord Jesus but do not find him, so they sail to Capernaum looking for Him. (vs. 20-25)
- ❧ “How did you come here?”
- ❧ “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”
(John 6:26)

John 6 Overview



❧ Elevation

- ❧ “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” (John 6:27)

❧ Response

- ❧ “Therefore they said to Him, What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” (John 6:30, 31)

John 6 Overview



❧ Enlightenment

- ❧ “Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:32-33)
- ❧ “Lord, give us this bread always.” (John 6:34)

John 6 Overview



℞ Revelation

℞ “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:35-38)

John 6 Overview



❧ Complaint

- ❧ “The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, I have come down from heaven?”
(John 6:41-42)

John 6 Overview



℞ Revelation

℞ “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:35-38)

John 6 Overview



☞ Reinforcement

- ☞ “Jesus therefore answered and said to them, Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God. Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:43-47)

John 6 Overview



☞ Direct

- ☞ “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” (John 6:48-51)
- ☞ “The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” (John 6:52)

John 6 Overview



❧ Going Deeper

- ❧ “Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”
(John 6:53-58)

John 6 Overview



❧ A serious matter

- ❧ “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” (John 6:60)
- ❧ “When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’” (John 6:61)
- ❧ “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away?” (John 6:66-67)

Problem with Claim



- ❧ The context
 - ❧ “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)
- ❧ “But he can’t mean that...” argument
- ❧ So how do I know when I should understand a verse literally, symbolically, or spiritually?

Early Church



“They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they confess not the Eucharist to be the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins, and which the Father, of His goodness raised up again...” (St. Ignatius, 110AD)

Flesh and Blood



- ❧ The Lord Jesus proclaimed it to be His Body and Blood
- ❧ St. Paul confirms it
 - ❧ “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord....For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” (1 Cor. 11:27, 29)
- ❧ The Early Church practiced it