

Question #7. Why is the Lord's Supper so important?

There are many reasons why the Lord's Supper is of utmost importance, and it is usually the first topic we work through after a person is immersed (baptized into Christ). But for right now I would put all the focus on Jesus' statement in John 6:53, 54, and 56. Verse 53 says: "**unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have *no life* in yourselves.**" Does this not sound like a salvation issue? Then in the next verse (54), Jesus gives the positive promise with regards to eating His flesh and drinking His blood: "**He...has *eternal life*, and I will *raise him up* on the last day.**" Here, the promise of eternal life and being resurrected are both tied to the eating and drinking.

Some people try to argue that Jesus is not referring to the Lord's Supper under the New Testament here. To which I ask; "To what then is Jesus referring?" So far I have never received a reasonable Biblical answer to this question, other than the Lord's Supper in reference to John 6:53-54. Personally, the rhetorical questions asked in the New Testament, I Corinthians 10:16, pretty well secure the issue for me. They read as follows: "*Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?*" What do you think?

Also, John 6:56 is very significant. It reads: "*He who eats My flesh and drinks my blood **abides** in Me, and I in Him*" (NASB). Note the word "abides", which means "to continue to live," can also be translated "remains." The New International Version (NIV) translates it this way: "*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood **remains** in Me, and I in him*" (John 6:56 NIV). So, remaining in Jesus depends on one's participation at the Lord's Supper. Also, the last phrase "*and I in Him*" has salvation significance in light of the definition of those who "*belong to*" Christ according to Romans 8:9.

In short, "Why is the Lord's Supper so important?" Because Jesus says it is an essential part of our salvation in and through Him!

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