

JESUS IS THE STAPLE NOT A SUPPLEMENT.

Jesus' controversial teachings

- 1) Jesus is more than a **Prophet** – 6:41-50

Thinking we have it all figured out is a sign we don't.

- 2) No one can get to God by human **effort** – 6:44

Q: How does God draw us to Himself?

A: Romans 10:12-15 *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.* ¹³ *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* ¹⁴ *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?* ¹⁵ *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

- a. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- b. Must believe the Gospel in order to call on the God of the Gospel.
- c. Must hear the Gospel in order to believe the Gospel.
- d. Must communicate the Gospel in order for others to hear.
- e. Must have a reason to communicate.

Q: What does God often use to open us to the Gospel?

- Emptiness of religion.
- Emptiness of life.
- Failing health.
- God-given appetite for Truth (*sensus divinitatis* 'sense of the divine').

- 3) Uncomfortable **metaphors**: flesh & blood – 6:51-53

Q: What did Jesus mean?

- 1) Jesus is not endorsing cannibalism.
- 2) Jesus is not endorsing sacramentalism (belief in or emphasis on the sacraments for achieving salvation and conferring grace).
 - A) The Lord's Supper hadn't been instituted yet.

Warren Wiersbe, "Christ is not talking about the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper or any other religious rite. The Lord's Supper had not even been instituted, and when it was, Jesus clearly stated that it was a memorial. It did not impart life. To say that a man receives eternal life by eating bread and drinking wine is to deny the grace of God in salvation (Eph. 2:8-9)."¹

- B) The Bible teaches that Christ has suffered once for sins (1 Peter. 3:18). If the Eucharist is *literally* the body of Christ then He must die again every time Communion is observed.
- C) If Jesus is speaking of communion, then it is absolutely necessary to be saved. There is no exception.

- 3) Jesus uses a **physical** example to illustrate spiritual **faith**.

6:53 *So Jesus 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 you.*

20:31 *but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

6:63 *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

New Bible Commentary, "It is not so surprising that the Jews did not penetrate to the spiritual meaning of Jesus' words, for understanding was possible only through faith, which it has already been noted they did not possess. The eating and drinking of the flesh and blood of Jesus is clearly an act of faith (53). The metaphorical language can be understood only in the light of the coming sacrifice of Jesus. Dependence on what Jesus has done is, therefore, vividly described in terms of eating and drinking. The result of such dependence is seen in vs 56-57, in a mutual indwelling. Jesus' dwelling in believers means that he identifies himself with them, but their dwelling in him means that they continue to depend on him."²

Responses

- The "**Crowd**" splintered at controversy – 6:60-66
- The "**Committed**" stayed through controversy – 6:67-68

Takeaway

- Jesus never leaves us **unchallenged**. How is Jesus challenging you?

Additional notes

Warren Wiersbe, "Jesus is the Living Word (John 1:1-4), and He was "made flesh" for us (1:14). The Bible is the written Word. Whatever the Bible says about Jesus, it also says about itself. Both are holy (Luke 1:35 and 2 Tim. 3:15); both are Truth (John 14:6; 17:17); both are Light (John 8:12; Ps. 119:105); both give life (John 5:21; Ps. 119:93); both produce the new birth (1 John 5:18; 1 Peter 1:23); both are eternal (Rev. 4:10; 1 Peter 1:23); both are the power of God (1 Cor. 1:24; Rom. 1:16). The conclusion is obvious: when you receive the Word into your heart, you receive Jesus Christ. We "eat His flesh" by partaking of the Word of God. "I am the living Bread," said Jesus in v. 51; and in Matt. 4:4 He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."³

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 228.

² D. Guthrie, "John," *New Bible Commentary* 4th ed., (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 1039.

³ Wiersbe, 228.