

Are You Eating the Bread of Life?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- Jesus' teaching in John 6, some of the most difficult in the Bible
 - He's the bread of life – we must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life
 - **Jn. 6:60b** many of Jesus' disciples responded to this teaching, "This is a **difficult statement; who can listen to it?**"

➤ Jesus is the bread of life

- **Jn. 6:1-27** overview Jesus' teaching
 - **vs. 10** Jesus fed 5,000 men (+ women and children)
 - **vs. 15-21** Jesus sent apostles to other side of the sea to Capernaum, storm, walked on water, saved them
 - **vs. 26-27** next day, people seek Jesus because He had filled them with physical bread, teaches them about spiritual bread

➤ - **Jn. 6:33-35** Jesus is the bread from heaven, the bread of life, resulting in eternal (spiritual) life

- **spiritual bread, from heaven – must eat Jesus' bread to have eternal life**

- **illus.: #355 Break Thou The Bread Of Life**

- all 3 verses: relate Jesus as bread of life, word, truth, eat and live with Thee above

➤ Jesus is the bread of life, because His word is life

- **Jn. 6:63, 67-68** Jesus' words spirit and life, Jesus has the words of eternal life
 - **Jn. 1:1** Jesus is the Word
 - **1 Jn. 1:1** Jesus is the Word of Life
 - **Jn. 5:24** hear Jesus' word, and believe in God, has eternal life, has passed out of death into life
 - **Jn. 12:48** the word Jesus spoke will judge us in the last day

➤ - **1 Pet. 2:2** as newborn babies desire the milk of the word

- **illus.: What desire does a baby have for milk?** (not starve - cry, beg, insist, persist)
 - **story: when I was a baby**, doctor put on diet, cried, dad finally told mom to feed me
- **illus.: food necessary to live - die if not eat**
 - **type of food eat makes significant difference** in our life
 - all junk food / cancer linked to obesity / eating breakfast improves mental health and test scores
 - different spiritual food: church, humanism, paganism, Satanism

➤ - **We must eat the proper spiritual food to be spiritually healthy – food from Jesus.**

- **take in the word of God and digest it**

- **What does it mean to eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood?**
 - **Jn. 6:51-58** we must eat Jesus to live forever – eat His flesh, drink His blood
 - vs. 52 Jews, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

- - **What does it mean to eat Jesus – eat His flesh, drink His blood?**
 - **Matt. 4:4** not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God
 - **figuratively speaking:**
 - we must eat the word of God (bread of life) – take into minds, digest, becomes part of us, changes us, effects us
 - since Jesus is the word, we must figuratively eat Him

- - **figurative context: obeying Jesus relates to eating, resulting in life (Heb. 5:9)**
 - **Jn. 6:35** not hunger or thirst if go to Jesus

- - **figurative context tied to the literal context:**
 - **Jn. 6:51** Jesus' flesh
 - **figurative:** Jesus living bread from heaven, must eat of the bread to live forever – word
 - **literal:** Jesus' flesh is the bread He gave for the world – cross

- - **meaning of the figurative and literal context together: What does it mean to eat Jesus? – partake of Jesus**
 - **1 Cor. 1:18** word of cross – foolish to perishing, power of God to people being saved
 - Jesus' “word” and “cross” together = word of the cross

- **When we obey the word of the cross, we eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood, which were sacrificed on the cross for our sins.**
 - **Gal. 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
 - **Gal. 3:27** “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

- **We have to “work” for the food that gives us eternal life** – bread of life - spiritual food – obey the word
 - **illus.: have to work for food**
 - garden, farm – work for money to buy – **2 Th. 3:10**
 - we also have to work for spiritual food

- **Jn. 6:26-27, 28-29** people were working for physical food after Jesus fed them, He tells them to work for spiritual food – believe – last lesson: believe = obey, follow God fully

- - **We must work for spiritual food: find, eat, digest, grow.**
 - **Matt. 6:33** main mission in life: seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, physical necessities (food) given

- - **Are you working for spiritual food, so you can live forever?** – take in the word, digest it
 - personal study and meditation
 - faithfully attend Bible study and assembly – prepared: lessons, physically, mentally
 - apply God's word to your life: repenting, changing, improving
 - believe: obey God in all things – follow fully

➤ - Are you eating the bread of life? – **inv.**