

# “EATING CHRIST’S FLESH AND BLOOD”

John 6:52-59

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

## INTRODUCTION

Man is stubborn and proud. He does not want to admit his deep depravity, nor does he want to admit his inability to come to God through his own merits and efforts.

Most who give some recognition to the authority of the Bible at least admit that salvation is *by grace and through faith* (Eph. 2:8-9). However, humans still wish to add human merit to the process—even if they must come in by the “back door.” They admit that we cannot dare come boldly in our own merits and with our good works in order to earn salvation. However, if they can add **a religious ceremony, yes even a religious ceremony commanded by the Scriptures**, and make that ceremony mandatory for salvation, then they somehow feel that they can “contribute to” or even merit their own salvation. They then have control. They must observe the ceremony in order to be saved. There is no salvation without the ceremony.

Many have done so with salvation, wrongly using such verses as Acts 2:38, 22:16, and Mark 16:16. Many others do so with Communion or the Lord’s Supper or Holy Eucharist.

This passage is often the basis for those beliefs in the **automatic efficacy of communion and its direct connection with the reception of eternal life**.

A correct understanding of the context makes it clear that only a work of supernatural unmerited grace received simply by faith results in the gift of eternal life.

## YOU CANNOT WORK YOUR WAY INTO HEAVEN—EVEN WITH RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES!

### I. RELIGIOUS CONFUSION (52, 59)

#### A. Circumstances (59)

“In synagogue”—like our “in church”.

#### B. Controversy (52) [“A war of words”]

Not all opinions were the same, and some likely supported Jesus—as we will see in other passages in John. And even those who disagreed were conflicting in their opinions and were confused.

### II. RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT (53-58)

Explain the “eating of flesh and drinking of blood”

#### A. Absolute guarantees (53-54)

##### 1. If you don’t—you won’t (53).

A single act for both flesh and blood—conversion.

Compare “come to me” and “believe in me.”

Flesh and blood separately—clearly of the dead person.  
Clearly a sacrificial reference—blood as often in Scripture is used of a violent death.

*Flesh*—sacrifice and sustenance; *blood*—atonement and life

2. If you do you will (54)—life **now** and **forever**.

Word for “eat” here is “noisy feeding”—with enjoyment. Continually feeding upon Him all day by faith.

B. Genuine food and drink—nothing else can satisfy (55)

C. Permanent Results (56—Continuous eating)

1. Abides in Christ.
2. Christ abides in Him.

D. Relation with the Father (57)

1. The Father is “**living**” (has life inherently)
2. The Father sent (the mission) Christ.
3. Christ lives “on account of the Father”
  - a. His life is “bound up” with that of the Father; Christ has no life apart from Him.
  - b. The Son lives **for** the Father—to do His will is Christ’s meat (4:34)
4. The Believer lives “on account of Christ.”
  - a. He “eats” Christ—appropriates Him into his inner being—a part of himself.
  - b. His life comes only from Christ—is bound up with Christ.
  - c. He will live only for Christ—nothing else matters!

**Only Christ has access to the Father; believers have life through Him.**

Notice the emphasis here: “*He who eats me, **he also** shall live because of Me.*”

E. The Heavenly Manna

1. Heavenly origin—“came down out of heaven.”
2. Superior to the manna—its partakers died (many also spiritually).
3. Gives eternal life to partakers.

## CONCLUSION

Are you relying on human merit to get you eternal life—even the merit of baptism or of holy communion?

**If so, you are lost; you will never make it to heaven.**

Have you “eaten Christ’s flesh and blood”—come to Him and trusted in Him as your sacrificial substitute for your sins?

**If so, you are saved and have eternal life, and will be raised up when Christ returns.**

Are you “abiding in Him” (v. 56)? **This is an evidence of true life! If not, GET SAVED NOW!**