

# John 6:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

## Analysis

'Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.' This shocking statement intensifies the discourse. 'Eat' and 'drink' are metaphors for appropriating Christ's sacrificial death. Without personally receiving what Christ offers through His death, there is no spiritual life. The language anticipates the Lord's Supper while primarily describing faith-union with Christ.

## Historical Context

This language would have been particularly offensive to Jews, for whom consuming blood was forbidden (Leviticus 17:10-14). Jesus deliberately uses scandalous imagery to emphasize the necessity of personally appropriating His sacrifice. Many disciples left over this teaching (verse 66).

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What does 'eating flesh' and 'drinking blood' metaphorically represent?
2. Why does Jesus use deliberately offensive language to describe coming to Him?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῦ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν  
said Then his G3588 Jesus Verily Verily I say unto you  
G2036 G3767 G846 G2424 G281 G281 G3004 G5213

Ἐὰν μὴ φάγητε τὴν σάρκα τοῦ νίοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου  
G1437 G3361 ye eat G3588 the flesh G3588 of the Son G3588 of man  
G5315 G4561 G5207 G444

καὶ πίητε αὐτοῦ τὸ αἷμα οὐκ ἔχετε ζωὴν ἐν ἔαυτοῖς  
and drink his G3588 blood no ye have life in you  
G2532 G4095 G846 G129 G3756 G2192 G2222 G1722 G1438

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 5:12** (Parallel theme): He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**John 6:55** (Blood): For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

**John 15:4** (Parallel theme): Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

**John 6:47** (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

**John 3:3** (References Jesus): Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

**Revelation 2:17** (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the

hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

**John 3:36** (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**Matthew 18:3** (Parallel theme): And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

**John 3:5** (References Jesus): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**Luke 13:5** (Parallel theme): I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.