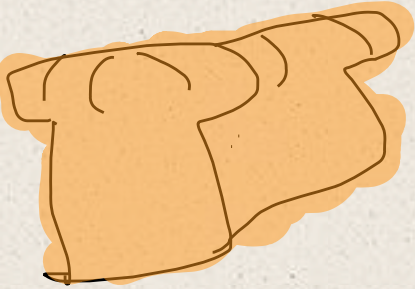


Eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood

Jesus said "I am the bread of life" John 6:35

"eat my flesh ... drink my blood" v.56

HARD SAYING v.60



Bread

Life ... rather than death

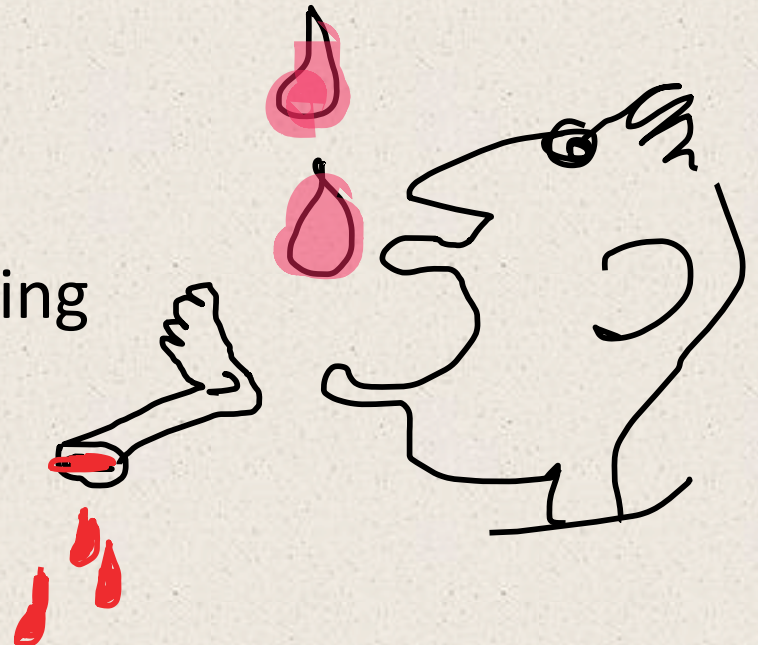
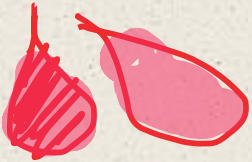


Blood

Flesh

Drinking blood

Eating/feeding/munching



Eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood

1. Not having life (-ve)
2. Getting life (+ve)

1. No life = death

N.B. there are “hard sayings” here v.60

- You might not like it!
 - v.53 “no life in you...”
 - v.53 “Truly, truly ... “ Amen Amen
 - v.53 “unless you ...” NO LIFE = dead
 - BUT: they were
 - “seeking” v.26
 - asking questions v.30
 - asking for bread v.34
 - grumbling v.41
 - disputing v.52
- (NOT believing!!)



1. No life = death

a. Biological life (apparently) is not the same as Life!

Genesis 3:16 *“you may surely eat of every tree in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die”*



- ➔ Adam and Eve continued talking ... but began a state of DEATH
- ➔ not heart stopped at foot of tree
- ➔ BUT exclusion from the garden, mortal ... dust to dust
- ➔ that's where we are now!



1. No life = death

Romans 6:23 *"the wages of sin is death"*

- human death is directly consequence of human sin
- Realm of sin/ death / condemnation



John 5:25 *"an hour is coming and is now here when the **dead will hear** the voice of the Son of God ..."*

- "the dead" = the people he was talking to

Ephesians 2:1 *"... you were dead in trespasses and sins ..."*

➔ "unless []" you have no life! You are dead!

➔ **Objection:** I am decent, healthy, independent, not perfect, I go to church,

➔ I recycle, "be kind" , support equalities and diversity, care for the planet...

➔ Jesus says : you are dead! No life in you!

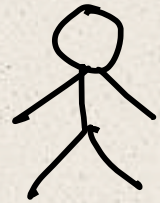
1. No life = death

b. The nature of Life is not temporary but everlasting

v.47 eternal life

v.47 raise him up on the last day

v.58 will live forever



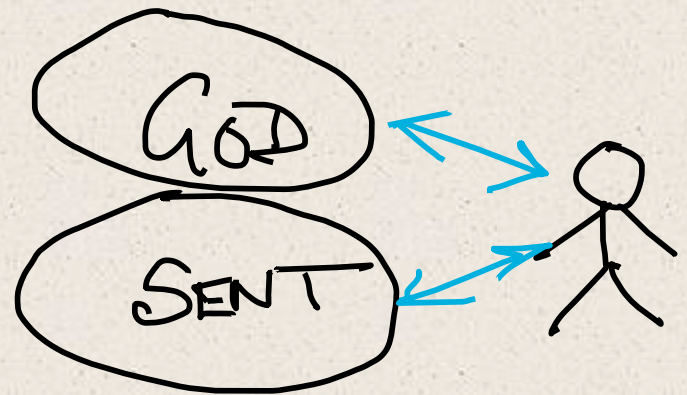
- ➔ *Eternal life is life that outlasts this world and belongs to the world of heaven and of eternity*
- ➔ *“your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory” “set your minds on things above” Colossians 3:3,4,2*
- ➔ *What a privilege to have this life! How much it can change our perspective on everything!*

1. No life = death

c. The nature of Life is God-relational

Jesus said *“and this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”* John 17:3

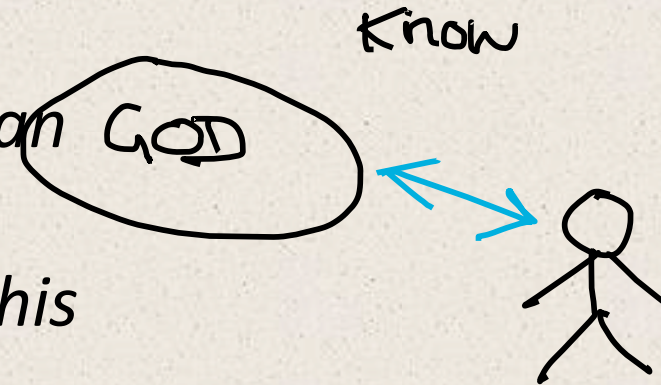
- Life comes as **we know God**
 - Know = be in person to person reconciled relationship
 - reverence
 - honour and worship
 - dependence
 - obedience
 - Love
- ➔ do you know God?



1. No life = death

c. The nature of Life is God-relational

- The LORD says “ *Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom,*
 - *let not the mighty man boast in his might,*
 - *let not the rich man boast in his riches, but*
 - *let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who does steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD”* Jeremiah 9:23





2. Getting life

a. Q: How does Jesus get life?

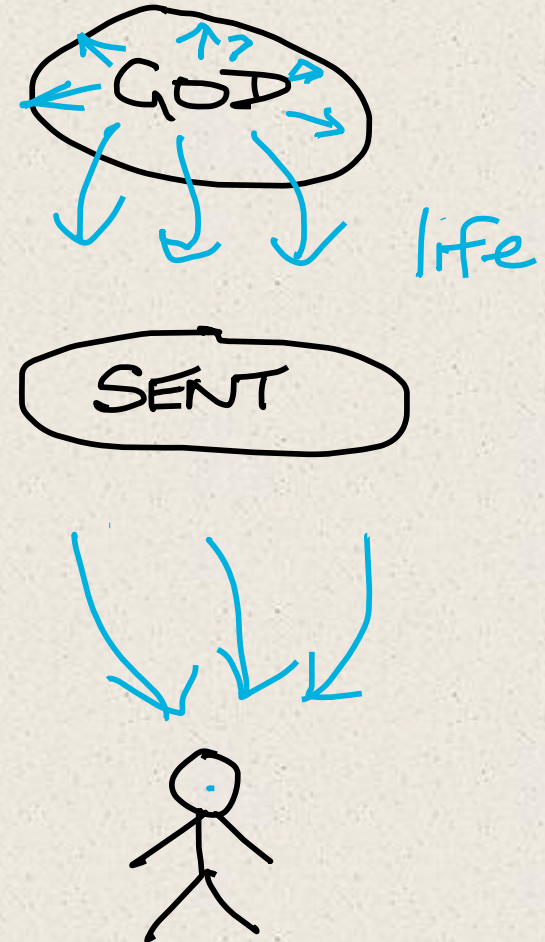
A: deep mystery of the nature of the Trinity

v.57 as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so ...

-The living Father is the fountain of all life, he is bursting with life, he is alive with life

- the fountain of life from the Father flows fully, willingly, eternally into the Son

➔ *Worship the Father and the Son*



2. Getting life

b. Q: How does Jesus give life?

A: there is the closest possible union between [the living] Christ and his people

v.55 “abides in me and I in him”



N.B. The Son is in the Father and the Father in him. (John 17:21)

In a similar way (not exactly the same) the believer *is in the Son and the Son in the believer*

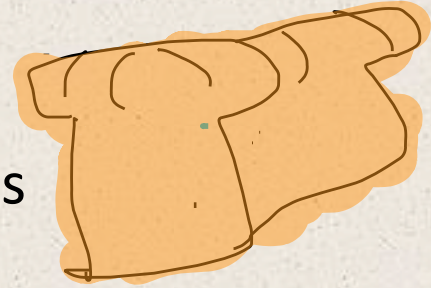
- ➔ This is the nature of being a Christian – being caught up into the being of God, we in him, he in us!
- ➔ bigger than you thought! – not just rotas and catching the bus in time to get to church!
- ➔ BUT there is more to it than that!

2. Getting life

b. Q: How does Jesus give life?

A: by offering his flesh to eat and blood to drink

N.B. we have moved from “baker’s shop” to “butcher’s shop”. Why?



v.51 the bread is my flesh

v.52 how give his flesh to eat?

v.53 unless eat the flesh and drink the blood ... no life

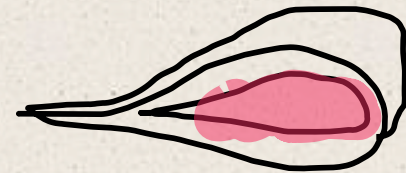
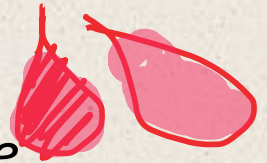
v.54 feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood

v.55 my flesh is true food, my blood is true drink

v.56 feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood

v.57 feeds on me

Why this move?



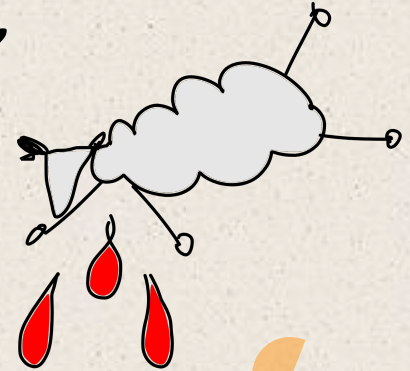
2. Getting life

Q: Why flesh (eat) blood (drink)

N.B. it is violent, unnatural, bloody, gory, off-putting, completely unacceptable to Jewish audience (animal sacrifices! – blood – powerful life/death)

A: exactly this.

- It is a blood sacrifice!
 - The animal substitutes for the sinner and gets what the sinner deserves...
 - The cross is a place of violent unnatural death.
 - This is what is needed to solve the problem of sin, death and the broken relationship with God
- ➔ Without this ... no life!!



2. Getting life

Q: Why flesh (eat) blood (drink)

N.B. it is violent, unnatural, bloody, gory, off-putting, completely unacceptable to Jewish audience (animal sacrifices! – blood – powerful life/death)

AND: we have to eat and drink this!

N.B. feed = “munch” ... take and eat actively and deliberately

Question: “is this the Mass/ Eucharist/ ...”

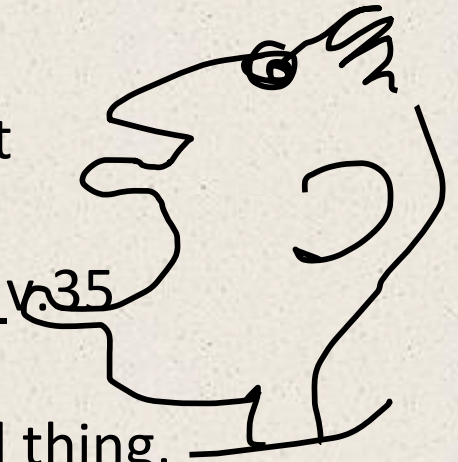
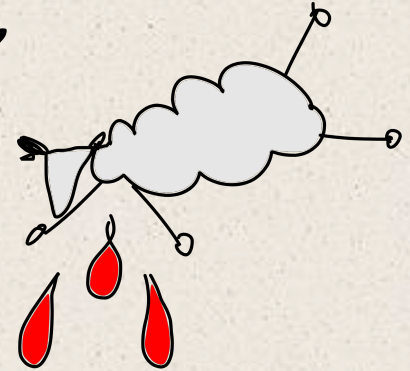
Answer: NO – it did not exist, he is not talking about bread and wine, but flesh and blood

NO: the eating and drinking is coming and believing v.35

➔ Will you eat and drink?

➔ like David ... I willingly agree that this was a good thing,
and I willingly accept the benefits of this

➔ please do!



Eating and drinking summary



1. No life

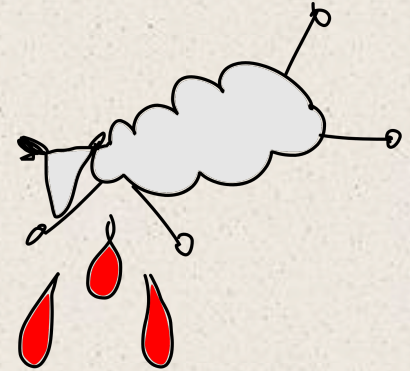
By nature we do not have the [eternal] life that we need.

To know God and live in him is eternal life

Adam lost this by sin ... now we live in death, cut off from the true source of true life

➔ Life in 2 dimensions and monochrome, when it is really in 3 dimensions and full colour!

➔ Do you agree with this hard saying?

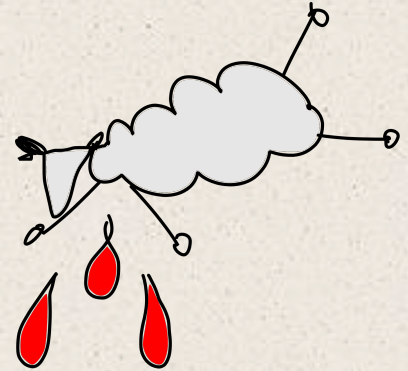


Eating and drinking



2. Getting Life

- The Father is the fountain of life, the Son has life from the Father
- The Son deeply imparts life into the believer, and the believer is in the Son
- BUT this life only comes through the bloody sacrificial death of the Son
- He offers us himself to munch on him
- Will you do so? Are you doing so?
- “Whoever munches on me, will live for ever”
- Please do!
- **He came ... not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him**



3:17