

THE Monarch

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Cocoon

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Eating
is a very popular topic lately.
We have found some special food
Recommended by
Jesus Christ.
The more you eat of it
The better for you.

EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY!

The big question
is
What are we to eat?

Health food, natural food,
organic food; seems like all
our friends are talking about
food lately. It appears that



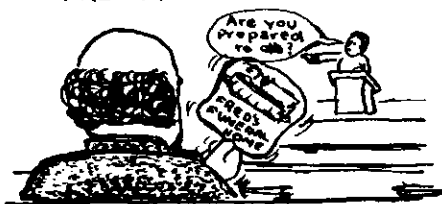
the food we eat today is so far from what it's supposed to be, it has to have fillers, fortifiers, preservatives, artificial color, artificial flavor; it's been synthesized, pasteurized, homogenized, processed, refined, & reprocessed. You name it. The question of what to eat is very prominent in the minds of many.

Well, we'd like to talk about eating too. Jesus said what is probably one of the strangest things ever said about the subject. Here are His words. "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 yourselves. (John 6:53)

EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY

Now, the pursuit of good health is a fine & honorable thing, but we want more than that. We want to live forever. Many people get upset when they find out we want to live. If you want to die, fine, it's a very popular thing these days, everyone is doing it. In fact, the church has been teaching us how to die for two thousand years. You walk into church and pick up a bulletin who's advertizing on it? The local funeral parlor. You sit there on a hot day and pick up a hand fan to cool yourself, what's staring you in the face! An advertize ment for the local funeral parlor.

THE CHURCH HAS BEEN PREPARING US TO DIE.



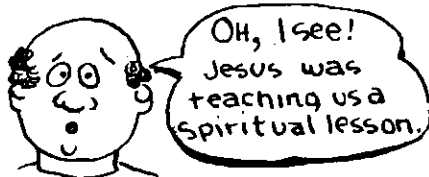
Jesus was not in the business of teaching or preparing people to die. In some circles of the church today death is treated as the blessed hope. It becomes the answer to all of our problems. The bible calls death an enemy, the last enemy to be overcome (1 Cor. 15:26). Every time Jesus contacted death, He raised the one who died to life.



JESUS PREPARES US TO LIVE.

There was a dynamic power in the words and acts of Jesus Christ that we do not claim to fully comprehend. But, there is a principle there that we desire to pursue in our quest for life. In the realm of eating natural food Jesus didn't have much to say. He did tell His disciples, "I have food to eat that you do not know about. My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and accomplish His

works." (John 4:32-34) He also said, "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth this defiles the man." He was more interested in spiritual food and its life giving qualities. He said, "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so He who eats Me shall also live because of Me. This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever (Jn. 6:57 & 58).



It is obvious in this last passage that Jesus was not talking about us taking a bite out of His arm or anything of that sort. He was, in a very graphic way, (that even His disciples said was hard to take [John 6:60]) teaching a spiritual lesson. We believe it is very important to find what it is to eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood.

Some have interpreted this to mean the partaking of communion. Communion is partaking of the symbols of the body and blood of Jesus, and it is possible to go through the ritual of communion without ever understanding what you are doing or have it benefit you in any way. The Bible teaches that it can even have a bad effect rather than a good one. Paul gives a talk in 1 Corinthians about eating the bread and drinking the cup. He winds it up this way. "For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgement to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly, for this reason many among you are weak and sick and a number sleep. (1 Cor. 11:29,30)



The bread and wine, the symbols of communion, are familiar to most all Christians. They help us get a deeper meaning of Jesus' words in the sixth chapter of John.

Let's first trace the symbol of wine. When offering the cup of wine to His disciples at the last supper Jesus said, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is to be shed on the behalf of many for forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28). Covenant and testament are synonymous terms. Jesus was saying that the shedding of His blood signified the New Testament.

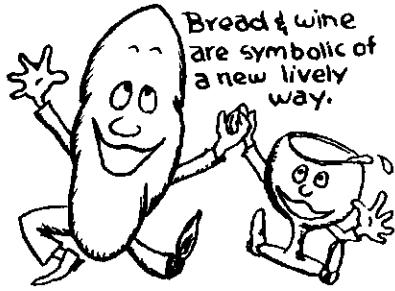
An incident between the disciples of John the Baptist and Jesus further illustrates how Jesus used wine as a symbol of the new testament. John the Baptist was in himself the epitome of the old covenant. Everything it stood for, he stood for. His disciples wanted to know why they fasted but the disciples of Jesus didn't. (Matt. 9:14)

Jesus had great respect for John. He said of him, "Among those born of woman there's not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist." (Matt. 11:11) But, John was the last great prophet of a covenant that ended with the shedding of Jesus' blood.

Jesus did not attempt to change the ways of John's disciples. He used the symbols of the bridegroom and His attendants to explain what was happening in the new covenant. (Matt. 9:15) Then to illustrate further the delicacy of dealing with new things in the presence of those who stand firmly for the old, He said, "Men do not put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wine skins, and both are preserved. Here he was using wine as a symbol of the new testament or covenant.

Remember... don't be drunk with a lot of wine, but with the Spirit.

EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY



Bread & wine are symbolic of a new lively way.

It should also be noted at this point that wine in the old testament was a symbol of great joy.

In Hebrews 10:16-20 we find a powerful description of what the blood of Jesus has done. Read it! It's tremendous! We find that in this new covenant God will no more remember our sins. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. (John 1:7) & there is no longer any condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8:1) We have to understand this. We have to enter into this new and living way that He inaugurated through the veil, that is, His flesh. (Heb. 10:20) We are no longer bound to the law; touch not, taste not, handle not. (Col. 2:21) Why do we keep on living as if we were?



Ah, then the Blood is like the New Wine is like the New Testament. And that brings redemption which brings righteousness, peace and joy, WOW!

Now we have seen that the blood equals the new wine equals the new covenant or new testament which brings great joy. WOW! Partake of it! Live in it! Enter into the holy place with confidence by the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:19) Doing this is drinking the very blood of Jesus Christ.

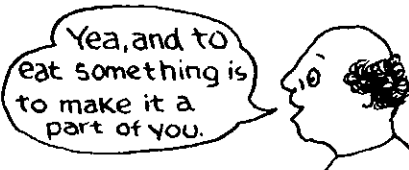
Let's now return to the symbols of the communion to find out about eating the flesh of Jesus. In the old testament we find that the meat offering was actually a mixture of oil and meal, a sort of bread. (Lev. 2) At the last passover meal the disciples and Jesus enjoyed together, Jesus took a loaf of bread and broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take,

eat, this is my body" (Matt. 26:22) Jesus used the bread as a symbol of His flesh and body.

In the first chapter of John (1:14), John refers to Jesus as the Word (LOGOS). "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. In the sixth chapter of John, after teaching that in order to have eternal life we must eat His flesh, Jesus' own disciples said, "This is a hard saying (LOGOS). When He heard them grumbling He said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words (RHEMA) that I speak to you are spirit and life.

The LOGOS is the letter of the law and when it became flesh it became RHEMA for it had life. The life is in the blood. The life is Christ.

The flesh then is the living word of Jesus Christ. Not the words of Moses, they were a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ. (Gal. 3:24). Now we have to take the words of Jesus into our own being in order to live.



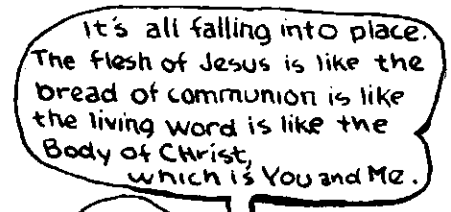
Yea, and to eat something is to make it a part of you.

To eat something is to make it a part of yourself. We have to take the forgiveness and cleansing of the New Testament and make it part of us. Also, we must take the living words (RHEMA) of Jesus Christ and make them part of us.

There is still more we must know about the LORD'S body. Paul said because we don't discern the body many are sick, and weak, and dying. (1 Cor. 11:30).

1 Corinthians 12:27 says, "You are Christ's body & individually members of it." Then to discern the LORD'S body is to know each other, to partake of each other and the ministry or manifestation of the Spirit that is given to each one for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7). That gives tremendous meaning to the symbolic breaking of the loaf in communion. For the whole body

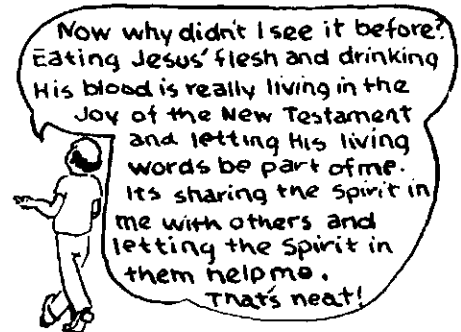
to function correctly each piece has to be fitted into the whole.



It's all falling into place. The flesh of Jesus is like the bread of communion is like the living word is like the Body of Christ, which is You and Me.



Each member of the body has his function and if we desire fullness of life we must acknowledge that function or ministry and allow it to help us when it can or help it when we can. We should learn to discern the ministry of others and of ourselves. We need each other. Our Christian walk is a very personal thing yet it has percussions that go beyond the self.



Now why didn't I see it before? Eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood is really living in the Joy of the New Testament and letting His living words be part of me. Its sharing the Spirit in me with others and letting the Spirit in them help me. That's neat!

Now we have discovered what it is to eat the flesh of Jesus Christ and drink His blood. Flesh = bread = living word = body = you. The blood = new wine = new covenant = new testament. To eat of these things is to make them an integral part of your whole being. So, if you want eternal life now you know the correct food to eat in order to acquire it.