



Family Service 16th August 2009 - Talk

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day

But what does that really mean? – This doesn't mean that we have to eat Jesus there wouldn't be enough of him to go around

What it really means is that to eat living bread we need to accept Christ into our lives and become united with him

How do we do this? – 3 Simple steps

- 1) We need to believe in his death – yes I can do that
- 2) We need to believe in his resurrection – yes again most of us can sign up to this
- 3) Finally we need to devote ourselves to LIVING AS HE REQUIRES

That third point is the tricky one that is the deal breaker

Jesus then goes onto say that "*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him*"

That is to say that HE is with you and will be always. And if only we let him he will live and be a part of us.

But coming back to LIVING AS HE REQUIRES how can we as mere mortals 2000 years since the death of Christ live exactly as he required

- Do we have to all be saints?
- Do we have to carry placards?
- Do we all have to wear badges showing that we are Christians?
- If we do all wear badges does it matter where we wear it? *I for one do not wear my badge proudly enough*
- Do we have to try and convert everybody we meet?
- Do we have to go knocking on people doors and selling the faith?



One parent commented that their children were always sent home from camps and outings.

But we didn't send anyone home, nobody had to shout, be aggressive or threaten. One boy at the start of the week sat at the back with his fingers in his ears and his head between his legs. By the end of the week he was up the front signing and dancing.

We didn't stamp on him and said this is what you do and this is how you do it. We simply were ourselves and showed him how much fun it was and what he could get out of it. We showed him a different way a way that he could choose if he wanted to.

And you know what, every single one of them said that they wanted to come back next year. Whether they see me or not will have to wait until I have mentally recovered a bit more.

The extra thing with children that I discovered and is so important is that they are incredibly thoughtful. And some of the questions that we as leaders were asked were extremely challenging for all of us.

So I'd like you all to help me and play a game of theology from an 11 year old!

I am going to ask you some of the questions that we were asked. I am not going to try and answer them now I will just leave them with you. I don't know the answers and I may ask Father Peter for the theological view later.

So here we go:-

- What is a Vicar? – I managed with this one!
- Can you worship God from Hell? – mmm tricky leads to a deeper question
- Where is Heaven? – always a tricky one!
- Will Muslims be in Heaven? – wow that is a bit fundamental



And these two from an autistic boy

- God can't exist because why does He allow bad things to happen to me?
- Why did God make me different from other people?

Finally

- God didn't create the Universe because of the big bang

The trouble is that with children you have to answer the question in about 30 second or you have lost the opportunity to teach them anything.

Hopefully we have planted some seeds amongst these young people and that as time goes on they will understand too about living in Christ and how it means they should live.

Finally we just all hope that by simply LIVING and SHOWING that we live as Jesus wanted we will demonstrate that we EAT the flesh and DRINK the blood. Hopefully others will want to be like us and achieve eternal life.

Alan Swan 15/08/2009