

# A Theology of Food

Our church eats together a lot, which is fine by me. We just enjoyed a Fish Fry to raise money for a mission's trip.

The Bible says much about eating. Eating food is discussed in the first chapter of Genesis (1:29) and also in the last chapter of Revelation (22:1, 2). Eating in eternity will be optional. But I am sure it is an option many of us will choose.

Jesus ate broiled fish in His resurrection body (Luke 24:42). In John 21:9-13, Jesus fried some fish for His disciples.

Of course, to abuse this blessing is condemned as "gluttony."

## 1. We Are Sinners Because of Eating the Wrong Food

A. God created a garden before He created man. So I guess God is a Gardener. Then God created man to work His garden. So man was created a gardener by the Gardener. God gave man one prohibition which had to do with eating, "Don't eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" (Genesis 2:17). Man fell into sin by eating what God had forbidden (Genesis 3:1-7). The curse for man's illicit eating was difficulty in growing food to eat.

B. You and I were born sinners not because lying, cheating, stealing, taking God's name in vain, adultery, or some other heinous sin, but because of eating.

## 2. We are Saved by Eating the Right Food

A. To reverse what Adam and Eve did, we must eat the Bread of Life.

B. In John 6:1-14, Jesus fed the multitude. The miracle of Feeding the 5000 is the only miracle mentioned by all four Gospel writers. It marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry. At this miracle, Jesus turned from ministering to the crowds, who were following Him for His catering service, to more intensely training His disciples for the final year of His public ministry.

C. The next day the multitudes returned hungry for some more of Jesus' Fish 'n' Chips. But instead of feeding them again, He preached a sermon to them entitled, "I am the Bread of Life." The hungry multitude reminded Jesus that their fathers ate bread sent down from heaven. Jesus then declared to them that He was the true Bread from Heaven that they must eat to have eternal life. In other words, they must believe that He is the Son of God, which is the reason John wrote his Gospel (20:30-31) and then receive Him as their personal Savior or as Jesus put it metaphorically, "eat His flesh and drink His blood" (6:53-58).

D. The Lord instituted "The Lord's Supper" to symbolize what He taught on this occasion. The bread symbolizes the broken body of Jesus on the cross and the fruit of the vine pictures His shed

blood. When we observe the Lord's Supper we are acknowledging we have taken Jesus into our life as our Savior.

### **3. We Grow as Christians by Eating Healthy Food**

A. My grandmother used to say to me between meals, "Don't eat that cake, it will ruin your supper." Now dietitians and nutritionists want you to graze all day instead of eating three big meals. But they don't want you to graze on chocolate and soft drinks or Café Mochas.

B. We must hunger and thirst after righteousness. Paul calls doctrine "sound doctrine" or "healthy doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

C. Peter admonished, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you might grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). Then he adds, "If so you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." If you are a babe in Christ you crave God's Word. But after a while you start desiring Ruth's Chris corn-fed Midwestern beef filet mignon.

D. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that they were still on milk as immature believers and able to eat meat (3:1-2).

John MacArthur wrote about hearing a preacher at a pastor's conference who came out on the platform in a diaper, with a baby doll under his arm, a pacifier around his neck, and a baby bottle in his hand. He preached on baby Christians. I'm sure he looked as ridiculous as the baby Christians he was describing.

E. Eating meat is the ability and desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Word.

### **4. We Will All Attend One of Two Final Suppers**

A. Believers will attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9).

Believers who are raptured will attend the Marriage of the Lamb mentioned in verses 7-8. They are robed with the rewards they received at the Judgment Seat. But verse nine refers to the future Marriage Supper of the Lamb which will take place after the Second Coming of Jesus to earth described in Revelation 19:11-16. A 1000 year feast with Christ which is more worship than eating.

B. Unbelievers will attend the Supper of the Great God (Revelation 19:17-21).

In this meal, sinners are the main course eaten by vultures sent by God. Every sinner has a choice, feast on Christ or be judged by Christ.

C. If you do not know Christ as Savior, heed the Psalmist's invitation, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good."