

Theme: The Jesus Food and its Dynamic

Rev. Dr. Peter Hall

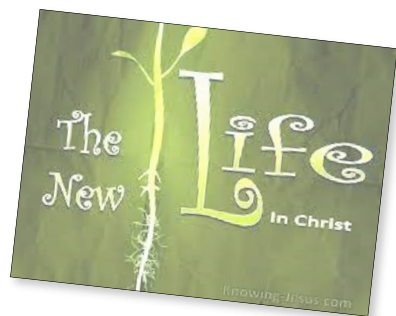
Scriptures: **John 6:51-58, Ephesians 5:15-20, (RSV)**

This passage in John's Gospel has caused difficulty for people through the ages and been the result of theological debate. On the face of it the terms sounds as though Christians would be cannibals but people must move from the temporal to the spiritual understanding of this passage.

One way to think of Jesus and his life and teaching is to think of an actor being given a play to read and absorb so that he/she is absorbed by the role they are asked to play, so much so that he/she seem to become the character in the play. To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to become so absorbed with Christ in one's life that we, in a sense, live and reflect Christ.

In John 14:20 Jesus tells his disciples that he is in the Father and they, the disciples, are in him and he in them. In Jewish understanding the blood is life and belongs to God. What Jesus can be seen to be saying is that to drink his blood is to drink his life so that it becomes part of our being and that we live it not just read about it.

This interacts with the reading in Ephesians in the sense that there was a sense of joy and happiness in the Early Church Christians as they experienced the 'new life in Christ.' Paul speaks of them speaking in psalms and hymns and song which means that singing was an important part of their lives. Paul tells them to give thanks in all things. People filled with the wonder of being Spirit-filled and experiencing the life in Christ tend to continually give thanks to God in many different aspects of their lives and daily living. People being subject to one another indicates that they respected each other and acted accordingly.



Amen

~ Peter Hall ~

Gympie Worship Next Week with Rev. David Fanning

BBQ and Games Today

At our Gympie Church ... we'll have a light morning tea after the worship service and then roll into a BBQ and Games. Hope you can stay to enjoy each others' company and have some fun!

Friends of The Bible Society

The next morning tea together will be at 'The Coffee Club' (Central Shopping Centre) **this Wednesday, 21st August, 9.30am**. Please see Linda Percival for more info.



Your Gifts Go A Long Way

Christmas Shoeboxes

This month, we're seeking funds towards the **Cost of Freight** (which is \$12.50 per box). Donations can be placed in an envelope labelled "Shoebox" and dropped into the offering plate/box; given directly to Helen or our Gympie church office; or deposited into our bank account identified as "Shoebox" (our bank account details are on the back page). If you have any gift donations sitting at home, please bring them in by the end of August. *Thank you for your support - this is an amazing ministry bringing delight to so many children globally.*

Life and Witness Conversations

The Consultation Team will be at Imbil next weekend (24th and 25th August). Those of our Imbil church family who would like to make an appointment to chat with them can arrange to do so by phoning Joan Burke on 0400 439 009.

Hope Reins Bush Dance

This will be a great family-friendly outdoor event where you can have a lot of fun while helping raise funds for HOPE REINS. **Saturday, 31st August**, 5:30 to 9:30pm at the home of HOPE REINS, 727 Eel Creek Rd, Langshaw, 4570.

Tickets can only be purchased in advance at www.trybooking.com/1194736
\$30 Adults, \$25 Adult concession, \$70 family pass (2 adults + 2 children under 17yrs + \$10 for each additional child). Tickets include 1 burger and a drink (sausage available). Extra drinks and burgers can be purchased on the night.

Office Leave

Cherylie will be on 4 weeks annual leave from 26th August - we have a team who will be performing various admin functions. You can continue to contact the office by email and Joan will look after these. If you need to contact someone more urgently, please phone Keith Brown on 0401 397 160. The Vibe will continue to be published in a simpler format during this period.



Respect ... is a word that we throw around way too easy in life.

If we are honest, I am sure we would all like to think that we have the respect of someone else. But is respect something that we can intentionally create?

What causes us to have respect for someone else?

Times that stick out to me the most are when I have lost the respect for someone else, someone that I had looked up to, that I had really respected!

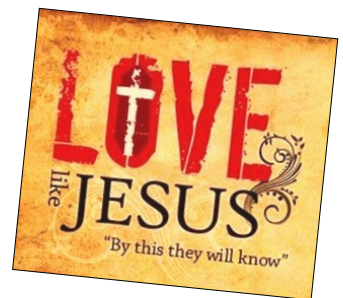
My experience is that, when respect is broken or lost, it undermines the basic principles of what makes relationships great.

The Biblical story that is captured in words of Peter during times of great persecution reminds us to "Show proper respect to everyone, show love for our family or those from our community of support, fear God, and give honour to those in authority". There is a fundamental life principle reflected here that all people are created in the image of God and therefore, carry intrinsic worth and respect. Showing proper respect to everyone, acknowledging that everyone matters to God and deserves to be given dignity.

This type of respect is not defined by status, background or beliefs, but demands that everyone deserves respect. This means that when we treat others with kindness, actively listening and seeking to understand their story, valuing their contributions and perspective - this is what gives respect.

Respect is about recognizing the worth and dignity of every individual. It involves valuing others' opinions, feelings, and rights, even when they might differ from our own. Respect is not just about being courteous, it's about genuinely appreciating the diversity, value and uniqueness of each person. Respect is essential for nurturing a harmonious and just world that we all desire to live in. The way God intended and created it to be.

We all want respect, but it starts with each of us showing respect for others. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35.) The way we love, demonstrates who we are. The way we live, is the first word we speak about the Gospel and the transformational power of what it means to live in relationship with our God, the way God intended it to be. Let's show Respect!



Excerpt from Rev. Bruce Moore's (Qld Moderator) article published in the 'Uniting News' edition of 13th August 2024



UNITING 4570
Better Together

What's Happening

- * **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
- * **Combined Churches Prayer** - This Tuesday, 20th August, 6 to 6.30pm, 34 O'Connell Street, Gympie.
- * **Vivaldi Spring (Strings Concert)** - Sunday, 1st September, Anglican Church (Gympie). Gold coin donation, refreshments afterward.
- * **Joy Circle** - Thursday, 19th September, 9.30am, CE Room
- * **Spring HymnFest** - details to come.

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 79 ♦ Children 5 ♦ Facebook 30 ♦ Youtube 8

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,034.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)