

22T01g Tough Questions? – Meat & Wine

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Even if you have been a Christian for a long time, there are some things in the bible and in the traditions of the modern church that are tough to understand. I find many of these downright confusing. Some of these have troubled me for years.

We want to ask those “tough questions” and then do the research to see if we can find or develop a better understanding for these “tough questions”.

Meat & Wine...Did Jesus eat meat and wine while on earth? Now for some of us this seems like a silly question. I grew up in the Methodist church and we never even thought to ask this question. Our view was of course, that’s what the Bible says. But as I have learned more about other denominations and Christian cults, I’ve learned this is a central part of some people’s beliefs.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. If I say anything wrong, please don’t let them remember my errand words but remember what you want them to hear regardless of my words. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Let’s address the question of, did Jesus eat meat. Well Jesus born and lived as an Israelite while He walked among us as Emanuel, God with us. The scriptures tell us that He observed the customs and rituals outlined in the law of Moses. Offering and sacrifices, required the people giving them to eat parts of the animals sacrificed. They were required to eat meat as part of these rituals. You can read the Mosaic law, in Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers. I won’t go there today, but you can read it for yourself. I cannot see any way Jesus could observe these rituals without eating meat.

One specific ritual was the Passover feast.

Let’s read Matthew 26:17-21 (NKJV) *17Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” 18And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.” ’ ”19So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21Now as they were eating, He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”*

At on this occasion, Jesus had his disciples prepare the Passover meal and the text clearly says they ate the meal. The Passover meal includes lamb which is definitely

eating of meat. There is no reason to believe Jesus abstained from eating meat. He attended many parties and was a guest in people's homes for meals. They would have served meat at many of these meals. If Jesus was truly abstaining from eating meat, there are plenty of opportunities in the gospels to tell us that detail if it was true. So, No. I believe Jesus ate meat. But what about wine.

I never understood how big an issue this was for many Christians; in fact, several denominations believe abstaining from drinking alcohol is essential to following Jesus. Baptists are one of the more prominent of these denominations.

I have heard many say that Jesus only drank grape juice, not wine. First, from a cultural and logistical perspective this is almost impossible. Refrigeration was not invented yet, so fresh grape juice would quickly become either wine or vinegar. Fresh juice would only be possible if freshly squeezed and grapes were not typically available except when in season. In Israel, grapes normally harvest in September or October. The last super was the Passover meal which is the first month of the Jewish calendar, Typically March or April on our modern Calendars. So, it is practically impossible to have had fresh grape juice 6 months after harvest time.

Jesus first miracle in John chapter 2, Jesus turns the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. It was wine folks, no one would have complemented the host for serving grape juice.

Other places in the scriptures, Jesus was accused of being a drunkard. No one would accuse someone of this, if they never drank wine. It does not make any logical sense.

But lastly let's read Matthew 26: 26-30 (NKJV) *²⁶And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."²⁷Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.²⁸For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.²⁹But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Jesus says He will not drink this again until he is in His father's kingdom. So, if it can't be fresh grape juice because of the season and then He must of drank the wine at the last super in order to say, He would not drink it again.

Now of course I was not there, so I can't say with certainty if Jesus drank wine or not. But you have to be very imaginative to believe he did not drink wine, since wine was the normal drink. Clean water was not very available and fresh juices were not available and when they were it would have been very expensive. Wine was just a normal thing to drink at every meal. It was cultural. It was practical. Drinking fresh juice was just nearly impossible.

Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. we know you know all things. When we see how things fit perfectly in your plan. Wow. Only with God is this possible Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series about the "Tough Questions" that we struggle with as Christians.

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See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.