

Meaning of the Blood

If we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

The blood of Jesus was poured out for us on the cross. Because of that blood we have incredible promises, incredible redemption, and an incredible exchange of His glory for our previous junk. What is so special about the blood?

Blood represents life. When blood is poured out, life has been poured out. Partaking of somebody else's blood represents partaking of his life. Leviticus 17:10-11 demonstrates the seriousness of an exchange of blood:

Any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement (Leviticus 17:10-11)."

We are to reserve this level of intimacy for God and for those who acknowledge God's sovereignty. Those who did eat blood, from an animal or a person, would be "cut off," a covenant term meaning that they would no longer be underneath the protection of the covenant, only under the curses, and would be banished from their people. While the above command was addressed only to Old Testament Israel, even in the New Testament times we make only one blood covenant, and that is with God, celebrated symbolically with the juice of the grape at communion. Our union with God automatically brings us into blood covenant with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Further blood covenants are prohibited because they are unnecessary and because of the following aberrations which take place among nonbelievers.

Pagan aberrations sought to imitate what God established as the ultimate covenant. Warriors would eat the hearts of those whom they thought brave, the leg muscles of those whom they thought fast, and drink the blood of those whose lives they overall wished to incorporate. Cannibals usually ate the flesh and drank the blood of their victims not because of hunger, but in

order to gain their victim's powers and abilities. The priests of Baal and Ashtoreth slashed themselves during the contest with Elijah over whose god was the most powerful in the hope that the flowing blood would cause them to become possessed and to become conduits for the demon who was representing itself as their god. The cannibals were certain to be frustrated because drinking another's blood *represents* a spiritual union, but is not the union. The priests of Baal had, at least, a small chance of success because of a demon's spiritual ability to unite – if such a result could be called success. It is a mystery why a person would want to unite with a demon when they could unite with the One who is Lord of the Universe and Creator even of the previously unfallen demons.

Yet cannibalism was still close enough to a blood covenant that the early Christians were mistakenly called cannibals, probably because of misinterpretations of Christ's statement that "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves . . . He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him (John 6:53,56)." This statement, for obvious reasons, caused much consternation among Christ's followers. But Jesus explained that what He was saying was to be understood spiritually (see John 6:60-63). Physically nothing occurs. The exchange of blood is a *symbol* of the life of one person being poured out into another. The "blood" of communion represents the life of Christ that was poured out into us as a result of what He did on the cross.