read

Luke 7:31-36
The Common English Bible (emphasis added)

7:31 "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation?" said Jesus, "What are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

"We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not cry."

33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' 35 But wisdom is proved right by all her children.

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

discuss

What is the significance of the Human One (the Son of Man) who eats and drinks?

Jesus was called “a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” Does the church carry the same reputation? Do we want this reputation: a reputation Jesus did not refute and seemed to embrace?

read

Tim Chester in A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community & Mission around the Table
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), p9-10, 13, 14

Food matters. Meals matter. Meals are full of significance. “Few acts are more expressive of companionship than the shared meal… Someone with whom we share food is likely to be our friend, or well on the way to becoming one.” The word “companion” comes from the Latin “cum” (“together”) and “panis” (“bread”).

Jesus spent his time eating and drinking—a lot of his time. He was a party animal. His mission strategy was a long meal, stretching into the evening. He did evangelism and discipleship round a table with some grilled fish, a loaf of bread, and a pitcher of wine.

Luke’s gospel is full of stories of Jesus eating with people [see Luke 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19, 22, and 24]...

Robert Karris concludes: "In Luke’s Gospel Jesus is either going to meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal."

Jesus is called “a glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.” This is why eating and drinking were so important in the mission of Jesus: they were a sign of his friendship with tax collectors and sinners. His “excess” of food and “excess” of grace are linked. In the ministry of Jesus, meals were enacted grace, community, and mission.