

## “Unclean Animals (Food)”

In the Hebrew way of thought they would never call unclean animals; food!

If it was unclean, then it wasn't food!

In the New Testament we see food mentioned a few times, but remember they would never call unclean animals food!

So for example: in Romans 14 where you see Paul talking about food and he says don't cause someone to stumble for the sake of food- he isn't saying it's ok to eat pork chops- he is actually talking about food, which is a clean animal, and he is talking about that food being sacrificed to false gods- in fact almost every time Paul talks about food (clean animals) he is talking about those animals being sacrificed to false gods- he is talking about idolatry! Something we now still deal with today in products called Halal. Things sacrificed to Mohammed for the Islamic religion.

In the New Testament we see some discussion about food, but the discussion is never God saying, "I'm changing my laws on clean and unclean animals". If that were so, I'm pretty sure God would make it so black and white that nobody would misinterpret it! God would probably start off the verse by saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel and say, "I'm changing the law on clean and unclean animals that you eat and don't eat"! Yet nowhere in the N.T do we have that.

Here is what we do have in the N.T.; some discussions around food; and then mainstream Christianity and Biblical Theologians interpreting it wrongly! And then feeding it to the sheep who like to be spoon fed. If you're interpreting the NT and it doesn't line up with the OT then you have a problem- your interpretation is wrong!

**Acts 10:9-15** – some say that the tallit is represented by the (sheet with 4 corners and tassles), being symbolic of the gentiles being wrapped in the authority of the Torah. In other words, God was going to accept them as they were, and then teach them His ways!

**Vs.17-** notice that Peter was perplexed about the vision-

It doesn't say he ate unclean animals

It says the vision confused him and made him wonder what God was saying

**Vs.28-** this wasn't Gods law- this was mans law that God was tearing down

Peter was even confronted by the apostles in Jerusalem over the matter in **Acts 11:3,4,18**

**The conclusion of this story is in VS.28** – God didn't change His laws on Clean and Unclean animals- He was illustrating to Peter to call no man unclean, but to bring them (gentiles) into the fold of Israel to graft them in as the wild olive branch! And it was as simple as trusting in Messiah! Faith brings you in, but works keep you in!

It's just like getting a job- you get the job on reputation and qualifications maybe just some grace and favor alone. But if you're lazy and don't learn and grow and do your job- you get fired!

**Acts 15:20,21** – The understanding was that the apostles wouldn't force anyone to do too much at once; it would be to overbearing. But as time went on and the new converts or believers in Messiah would grow and mature; they would be under the teaching of the Torah and eventually come to an understanding of what God required of them. The new gentile believers would become who God wanted them to be, so they could do what God wanted them to do. And it would come through understanding of the OT!

The issue here is that the Rabbi's are making a tradition of men, (not allowed to associate with a foreigner or visit him- acts 10:28), into a commandment of God- this violating Torah by adding to the commandments of God. They were actually teaching you not to love your neighbor!

It's really the process of Sanctification and it doesn't happen overnight it is a long process. We continually learn of Gods instructions, we continually learn what pleases the Father and what doesn't- We are continually building a healthy relationship with God- We've had our whole lives to screw it up- it's isn't gonna be 100% repaired in one prayer or one day. We are a work in progress- Gods workmanship- and we need to be sanctified.

**Rom.6:12-23** Sanctification

**Jn.17:17**- Sanctify them in your truth- thy word is truth- **Ps.119:142**

**Math.15:17** – people use this scripture to say you can eat anything you want, like unclean animals!

**Vs.1-3 & 20** – The issue Jesus is dealing with isn't what is clean and unclean for eating. The issue is Tradition of the Elders for the washing of hands before you eat. So for all you little boys and girls out there who don't wash your hands before you eat- Jesus said don't worry about it! But common sense will tell you that if your hands are dirty- wash them!

The problem is that the elders are making a tradition of men as a commandment of God and therefore transgressing the Law of God by adding to it!

**I Tim.4:1-5** abstaining from foods is talking about vegetarians, or possibly food sacrificed to idols! Everything created by God is good! Of Course back in Genesis the creation

account God created everything and then declared it was good! All of God's creation is good, but not all of God's creation is food! Just because something is good, doesn't mean that it is 'Food'.

Just because something is good, doesn't mean it's good for you to eat. Mountains are good, tree bark is good, the sky is good, hey dirt is good too, but that doesn't mean it's good for you to eat!

Silverware is good to use, but not good to eat! Plates are good to use but I wouldn't eat one! People can be good too, but I wouldn't eat one!

Paul isn't changing God's law on clean and unclean animals here. Remember he says, "Food", Hebrew thought wouldn't call an unclean animal 'Food'! So when he says, 'Food', Paul is talking about clean animals set apart by God for us to eat!

**I Cor.8:1-4** Paul is talking about food (clean animals) that are sacrificed to idols and then being eaten by believers. Paul is not talking about unclean animals being eaten.

People like to take **vs.8,9** and say you can eat any unclean animal you want, now granted Pauls writings are hard to understand, but there is no black and white instruction here that God is changing His laws on clean and unclean- the only thing you can do to justify eating unclean animals is take Pauls writings and bend them to your will- take Pauls writings and twist them to say it's ok to eat unclean animals.

We must bend our will to Gods instructions, do not bend Gods instructions to your will.

In that passage Paul seems to be making a case for saying it's ok to eat meat sacrificed to idols because **vs 4-** says there is no such thing as an idol in the world because there is only One God. However, if you continue reading you will see in ICor.10:21 that Paul concludes that you can't do this because although idols aren't really gods at all they are demonic, and you can't drink the cup of Yah and the cup of demons!

**I Cor.10:19** – again the same subject – Food sacrificed to idols being eaten by believers.

**Vs.24,25** – Same conclusion as in Chapter 8

**Vs.30,31** - Same conclusion as in Timothy; receive it with gratitude knowing it is sanctified by God and prayer!

But Paul is talking about Food (Clean Animals)! And He is not changing God's law about clean and unclean animals. He is dealing with an internal issue in the body of Corinth about eating clean animals sacrificed to idols!

**Rom.14:** It would appear to me as though Paul is addressing in Rome the same issue he was addressing in Corinth. Food being sacrificed to idols.

**Vs.2** – the same thing as in I Tim.4:3; those who advocate not eating meat (clean food) are weak in the faith!

It would appear as though Paul is addressing Food being sacrificed to idols again, but besides that unobvious conclusion; Paul is nowhere changing Gods laws on what is clean (Food) and what is unclean to us (Not Food). Paul isn't condoning eating unclean animals! And we also know from 1 Cor.10:21 that Paul doesn't condone eating meat sacrificed to idols (today known as halal products).

In fact, I think that Paul isn't addressing dietary laws, or Sabbath days (in **vs.5,6**) or Appointed times. He is addressing Greek and Roman culture and days, and false gods, and sacrifices of food to them!

**Vs.14** – Now here Paul actually addresses unclean things! And he says nothing in and of itself is unclean. But just because a pig isn't unclean to a pig; or a dog isn't unclean to a dog; or a snake isn't unclean to a snake or isn't unclean to the touch while it is alive. This Doesn't change Gods law of saying to you sons of Israel it is unclean!

A pig unto itself isn't unclean, but to us it is unclean!

**Vs.20** – Paul mentions Food- so he isn't talking about unclean animals- he's talking about clean animals – food!

**Vs.21-** Same principle as before, don't do anything to cause your brother to stumble!

**Leviticus 11**(Read whole Chapter)

**Vs.3** – If it divides the hoof and chews the cud then you may eat it!

**Vs.8** – You shouldn't touch their dead carcasses

**Vs.9-** If it has fins and scales then you may eat it!

**Vs.13-19** – A list of unclean Birds

**Vs.22** – Clean insects to eat- Locust, cricket, grasshopper

**Vs.24 and 25** – If you touch a dead carcass of an unclean animal then you become unclean until evening and must wash your clothes

**Vs.29,30** – Unclean swarming things or reptiles

**Vs.41,42** – More Unclean swarming things

**Vs.44-47** This is one of the ways the Yahweh has created for us to be consecrated and Holy unto Him!

This is the law concerning edible creatures and creatures not to be eaten.

Not every animal God made is for our food!

**Lev.3:17**- Don't eat blood or fat!

### **Conclusion:**

If we aren't going to learn and grow in the Messiah, and we are going to use our grace card as a license to sin; won't God be just in judging us and condemning us! Doesn't the wrath of God fall upon the sons of disobedience? Can you believe and still disobey?

So what is sin? Sin is transgressing the law, or breaking the law. So what is the law? The law is all of God's commandments to us and there are more than 10 and tithing! How can the so called church say God is not done away with the 10 and tithing, but He's done away with the rest of it? Sounds to me like they are picking and choosing which ones they like and don't like! There are laws on what to eat and not to eat; there are laws on what to wear and not to wear; there are laws dealing with the Sabbath, the Feasts of the Lord or Appointed Times!

It's time for us to obey the Law; how else can you obey God? Yeshua said if you love me keep my commandments, notice He didn't say some of the commandments, He means all of them! Yeshua is the Law, the Torah, when he speaks he expounds Torah, when he speaks his words (Torah) will smite his enemies, and those who disobey God!

If we really love the Lord and want to please Him, we have no choice but to become Torah observers, doers.

Now for those of us who don't understand the whole Law, God is patient and willing to teach, but we must be willing to learn and turn from our wicked ways. Turn from our non-observant Torah ways!

We get our hearts right and trust and believe, but now we need to have works; just like a job- lest we get fired for not working!

