



Confused Christianity Series

Part 9:

“They are Confused about What to Eat”

How so?...because we swallowed the lie that God threw out the Bible “laws” on clean vs. unclean foods (Leviticus 11, & Deuteronomy 14), which He had given to bless us.

But “law” is a poor translation for “Torah.” Instead, it means “instructions, teachings” for healthy life. Being aware that the food instructions stem from His great love for us, we then ponder:

- Doesn't the Word say that God & His Son don't change their minds, **Malachi 3:6 & Hebrews 13:8?**
- Has mankind changed physiologically?
- Then why did Y'shua keep the dietary laws, as did the apostles, long after the receiving of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 28:17)?
- Why is there no clear teaching to say the guidelines have changed?
- Aren't we warned not to take away from the Word, **Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32 & Proverbs 30:6?**

We soon realize that religious leaders must strain to support “the end to dietary restrictions.” We question their following 4 main points.

1. **Mark 7:19b** (in the NIV & other English translations) reads, “*In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean.”*” But as some footnotes indicate, *this sentence was not in the earliest Greek or Hebrew manuscripts, but rather is a translator's notation!* That raises our suspicion even more, heightened by waking up to the fact that the early Roman Catholic Church, (who had control over translations), was antisemitic; doing all they could to divorce from the competition of the Messianic home/synagogue groups.

2. **Acts 10 & 11** is Peter's vision (shown 3-times), of many unclean animals to kill and eat. But we see in careful reading that Peter knew the vision was symbolic, not literal. Immediately, 3-Gentile-outsiders knocked on his door. When answering, he knew the meaning...to welcome them, for if Y'hovah calls a person clean, then they are.

3. **Colossians 2:16** says don't let anyone judge you concerning your eating standards. That has been twisted by people who want to justify eating unclean food, though context shows the opposite. It exhorts believers to stand firm in eating by Bible guidelines (regardless of criticism), for they are confirmed by the assembly of Messianics. Also note that two out of the four "first-steps-requirements" for new Gentile believers (as they begin to learn the Torah as it is read in Sabbath gatherings), are dietary, (**Acts 15:20**).

4. **1Corinthians 8** is also taken out of context. We never eat anything unless we know that it is clean. With that understanding, it matters not if the butcher offered the clean food to a false god. Who cares what the butcher thinks? However, be respectful to believers who do care. Note the distinction from **Acts 15:20** to not to participate in idol worship.

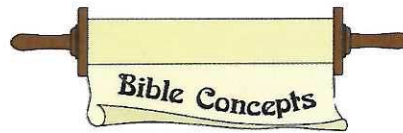
So what are the forbidden foods?

- Do not eat blood.
- Do not eat an animal that died on its own, (including roadkill).
- Do not eat amphibians, reptiles, creeping things, or insects, (except those of the grasshopper & locust families).
- Do not eat any marine life that lack both fins and scales. (catfish, flounder, shellfish, eels, etc since they are nature's garbage disposals).
- Do not eat scavenger/predatory birds that are specifically mentioned.
- Do not eat anything with paws, (rabbits, bear, dogs, squirrels, etc.)
- Do not eat mammals that lack both chewing the cud & having split hoofs, (pigs, camels, horses, etc.)

Now science/health studies confirm with alarm why the food-guides are critical to health.

When we sort clean from unclean food, we tend to also grow in sensitivity of other things clean or unclean, including spirits, habits, attitudes, words & actions. Many notice dramatic improvement in health & mental clarity. Discernment helps to make good choices, so that we may grow into the mind & likeness of Messiah.

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Revealing the Big Picture

Snapshot Bible Concept: "To Eat or Not to Eat?"

Many have strong opinions on this "belly-realm subject," and are quick to state & defend them. However, the Creator told what food was created for mankind to eat (clean-food), and what was created for other purposes, (unclean-food). **Leviticus 11 & Deuteronomy 14** are His punch-list, summarized below. The list is *not* legalism, but rather given from His Love for health. Little is said about plants so we must discern against the unripe, poisonous, inedible, or defiled.

Also **Revelation 18:2** confirms that the clean vs. unclean rules still apply.

Mammals

- Eat anything that has a split hoof AND chews the cud.
(Pigs, horses, & camels are out since they don't qualify for both.)
- Don't eat anything with paws, (rabbit, kangaroo, bear, beaver, dogs, etc.)
- Don't eat blood, because the life/soul/nature of the beast is in the blood.
- Don't eat animals that died on their own, even "road-kill,"
- Don't eat animal fat, but can use it & parts of unclean animals for other things.

Fish

- Eat anything that has fins & scales.
- Eliminates shellfish, (clams, mussels, snails, shrimp, lobster, octopus, etc.)
- Eliminates flounder, catfish, etc.
- Scales protect from parasites & toxins. Fins do too by constant movement in cleaner water, as opposed to bottom dwellers, who clean up toxic wastes.

Birds

- Unclean birds (& bats) are listed as not on the menu.

Insects

- Only those of the grasshopper & locust families are clean, (and some say "beetles," which should be translated as wingless locusts or crickets.)

Plants

- Nuts, seeds, grains, fruit & vegetables were created as the focus of the diet.
- **Leviticus 19:23** states that the first 3-years of fruit on fruit trees is unclean, (likely from sucking up heavy metals & other soil toxins, so don't pick them, but once they drop be sure to dispose of them in a non-garden area.)