



Equipping People for Life

What About All the Laws On Eating?

Leviticus 11, June 4, 2016

Notes

Eating & Spiritual Warfare:

- “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Matthew 17:21, NKJV).
- Food was part of mankind’s first spiritual battle. Genesis 3:1-7

How I became *biblically* kosher.

- John 12:50 (NKJV) – “And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

The New Testament is concerned with eating.

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) – Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Communion.

The Law is NOT currently binding on Gentiles (Acts 15).

At the First Council of Jerusalem –

Acts 15:24-29 (NKJV) – ²⁴ Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “*You must* be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no *such* commandment—²⁵ it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

It is evident that the Gentiles are called to abstain from 4 things.

These “essentials” are listed in various ways in different Greek manuscripts. The real question is to what do they relate?

1. **things sacrificed to idols would refer to meat** (cf. 1 Cor. 8; 10:23–33)
2. blood could refer to either

- a. nonkosher meat
- b. premeditated murder
3. **things strangled must refer to non-kosher ways of killing animals, implying that the previous two also relate to food sensibilities of the Jews**
4. fornication could refer to
 - a. participation in pagan worship rituals (as well as the food)
 - b. OT Levitical laws against incest (cf. Lev. 17:10–14)

All of these “essentials” relate not to salvation, but to fellowship within mixed churches and expanded opportunities for Jewish evangelism.¹

The day will come when the Law is regulatory.

Isaiah 2:2-4 (NIV) – ² In the last days ³ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Also: Zechariah 14:16-19, and others.

There is *still* coming a day when people will not eat pig meat. (New Heaven & New Earth or Millennium?)

Isaiah 66:15-17 (NIV) – ¹⁵ See, the LORD is coming with fire.... ¹⁶ the LORD will execute judgment upon all men....¹⁷ “Those who consecrate and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following the one in the midst of those who eat the flesh of pigs and rats and other abominable things—they will meet their end together,” declares the LORD.

QUADRUPEDS – Leviticus 11:1-8 (NKJV) – ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These *are* the animals which you may eat among all the animals that *are* on the earth: ³ Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat. ⁴ Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the **camel**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; ⁵ the **rock hyrax**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, *is* unclean to you; ⁶ the **hare**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, *is* unclean to you; ⁷ and the **swine**, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, *is* unclean to you.

¹ Utley, R. J. (2003). *Luke the Historian: The Book of Acts* (Vol. Volume 3B, p. 186). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.

⁸ Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They *are* unclean to you.

- 4 animals: camel, badger, hare, pig
- Boundaries built into nature: split hoof & chews cud (Clean = both or neither. Unclean = either but not both.)
- ✓ Interesting study – the pig was a part of ancient worship of gods of the underworld (chthonic deities)
- ✓ Antiochus Epiphanies offered a pig on the altar in the Temple – a foreshadowing of the anti-Christ.

FISH – Leviticus 11:9-12 (NKJV) – ⁹ ‘These you may eat of all that *are* in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat. ¹⁰ But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which *is* in the water, they *are* an abomination to you.

¹¹ They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination. ¹² Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales—that *shall be* an abomination to you.

- Boundaries built into nature: clean fish have fins and scales.
- ✓ Ancient Israel was not connected with marine life. Adam names all the animals except fish. The Hebrew Bible mentions only 2 fish: both mythical (Gen 1:21; Isa. 51:9, Ps. 74:13 and Ps. 74:14, 104:26; Job 3:8, 40:25).

BIRDS – Leviticus 11:13-19 (NKJV) – ¹³ ‘And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they *are* an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ¹⁴ the kite, and the falcon after its kind; ¹⁵ every raven after its kind, ¹⁶ the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk after its kind; ¹⁷ the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl; ¹⁸ the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture; ¹⁹ the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

- Boundaries built into nature: raptures who hold prey down with claws while eating, eat prey while still alive, seize prey in flight. The last 2 are just very dirty (hoopoe feeds on dung)

FLYING INSECTS – Leviticus 11:20-23 (NKJV) – ²⁰ ‘All flying insects that creep on *all* fours *shall be* an abomination to you. ²¹ Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on *all* fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. ²² These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. ²³ But all *other* flying insects which have four feet *shall be* an abomination to you.

- Boundaries built into nature: any bug that creeps on all 4 legs unless if it has jointed legs above the feet to jump.

LAND SWARMERS – Leviticus 11:41-45 (NKJV) – ⁴¹ ‘And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth *shall be* an abomination. It shall not be eaten. ⁴² Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on *all* fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth—these you shall not eat, for they *are* an abomination. ⁴³ You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them. ⁴⁴ For I *am* the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I *am* holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ⁴⁵ For I *am* the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

- Boundaries built into nature: unclean – anything that creeps. All creeps are unclean! 😊

God has built boundaries into nature.

Genesis 1:6-8 (NKJV) – ⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”

⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Genesis 7:11-12 (NKJV) – In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

- **Do you consider *eating* a form of worship? (For example: do you pray over your food?)**
- **Do you have *boundaries* with regard to your eating? Should you? What boundaries seem appropriate to you and the Spirit?**