

Clean and Unclean

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on clean and unclean foods. The first question we should ask is "Does God change?"

Malachi 3:6

Verse 6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

This scripture tells us clearly that God does not change. Now let us move in to when man first receives a diet to follow.

Genesis 1:29, 30

Verse 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Verse 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Genesis 2:16, 17

Verse 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Verse 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God clearly had a specific diet for man in the beginning that differed from what he gave for the animals. We also see that from the beginning God gave us instruction on one thing we could not eat, a simple call to obedience. Now let us see if there was any knowledge of clean and unclean before Israel.

Genesis 7:2, 8, 9

Verse 2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

Verse 8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

Verse 9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

In these scriptures we see Noah is told to load the ark specifically with clean and unclean animals. Noah predates Abram this means that clean and unclean animals were before Israel. God adds meats to our diet after the flood.

Genesis 9:2-4

Verse 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

Verse 3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Verse 4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

Genesis 8:20

Verse 20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

God instills fear in the animals towards us as he has now given them for us as meat. "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you;" reading this one assumes they can eat anything they want as long as it moves; but in this case the ending of the verse is a crucial part as it states, "even as the herb have I given you all things." This allowed Noah to understand the separation as he was told to bring excess of the clean animals, which he could now eat and sacrifice to God.

Now we can move forward to see what laws were set down for Israel to follow.

Deuteronomy 14:3, 6-8

Verse 3 Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

Verse 6 And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat.

Verse 7 Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof;

as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you.

Verse 8 And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcase.

If you read both Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14:12-20 it gives a very detailed breakdown of clean and unclean foods. There is about a thousand years between Noah and Moses showing us clearly that there was knowledge of the diet before Israel.

We will now look to the new testament to see if it still follows the clean and unclean diet for meats.
Acts 10:10-16

Verse 10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Verse 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Verse 12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

Verse 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

Verse 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Verse 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Verse 16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

In Peter's vision we see he makes a comment that he cannot eat of anything, because all of the animals are together on the sheet. He then tells the Lord he has never eaten anything common or unclean, which then God corrects him and says that anything he has cleansed is not common. If there were no unclean food then why would God not correct him and say anything on the sheet was okay for him to eat?

Scriptures are misused sometimes, usually to benefit one's personal belief. We must understand that the scriptures have to harmonize. Nothing in the law will change. Jesus comes to fulfill the law, and sacrifice himself for us.
Matthew 5:17, 18

Verse 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Verse 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

We are going to go through a couple of scriptures that are misunderstood, or taken out of context. It is important to read all around a single verse to get the full understanding as to what is being discussed.
Matthew 15:11

Verse 11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

In Matthew it would appear that we are being told that we can eat whatever we want, that it does not matter what goes in the mouth because that is not what defiles a man. If we take this scripture on its own, one can easily take it out of context. Reading the entire chapter will break it down a lot better.

Matthew 15:2

Verse 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

We can see here that just by reading more of the chapter that they are actually talking about eating with unwashed hands. Again, we ask you to read the chapter for yourself to get a better understanding.
Romans 14:14

Verse 14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Romans again gives us the impression that we can eat anything we want; but we must read more than one verse to truly understand what is being talked about.

Romans 14:1, 2

Verse 1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

Verse 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

The subject here is dealing with the diet of meat versus the diet of herbs. This is just a message for members to

respect one another's conviction on sticking with a complete herb diet, as opposed to all that God gave us to eat.
I Timothy 4:4

Verse 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

Timothy is another scripture people like to use to say we can eat what we choose, as long as we do it with thanksgiving. Let us see what it is actually talking about.

I Timothy 4:1-3

Verse 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Verse 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Verse 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Starting in verse one we see it is talking about, those who depart from the faith and what they end up giving heed to. In verse three, we see they are commanded to abstain from meats. These meats God created to be received with thanksgiving "to them which believe and know the truth." This is not letting us eat what our heart desires. This is letting us know that what God says we can do is not within any man's power to change. As some churches, which do not let their priests marry, or make the congregation become vegetarians.

On the last note, following God's commandments is a call to obedience as we are told in Revelation.

Revelation 12:17

Verse 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12

Verse 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

His saints will be those people who follow his commandments and obey his laws. If we choose to follow man and what they teach instead of reading the scriptures for ourselves, then we too will not see the truth.

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