

# Food

## Part 6

In the Old Testament God recommended to the Israelites that certain animal meat is unclean and they should not eat that. We can read that in *Leviticus 11*. But when Jesus came, he announced clearly that all food is clean as we can read in *Mark 7:14-19* ***“<sup>14</sup>Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup>Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean.’ <sup>17</sup>After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. <sup>18</sup>“Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’? <sup>19</sup>For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean.”)*** It is not what going to the stomach makes the man unclean but what is in the hearts of men that makes man unclean, ***“<sup>17</sup> Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean.” (Matthew 15:17-20)*** So what the Lord emphasized here is not the food, but what is in your heart is more important.

Certain Christian group they still use the Old Testament Scripture to forbid their members from eating certain animals food like pork or certain type of fish meat. But that is not applicable after what Jesus declared. The disciples of Jesus they were Jewish and they were following *Leviticus 11* that teaches about not eating certain animals and fish. But the Lord corrected them when He gave His vision to Simeon Peter as we can read in *Acts 10:9-16* ***“<sup>9</sup>About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.”*** Now clearly we can see that the Lord convinced Peter to eat all these animal and reptiles that were considered unclean according to the Law of God that He gave to Moses in the Old Testament.

We do all eat food with thanks giving to God who is always giving us our daily bread. All the food is clean according to God’s word, but the source of the food and the set up that we eat that food is important to consider before we eat such food. One such kind of food is the food that sacrificed for idols. Let us read *1Corinthians 8:1-13*:

***“Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But the man who loves God is known by God. <sup>4</sup> So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. <sup>7</sup> But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. <sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.”*** Paul here clearly declared that idols are nothing, because for us, ***there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*** Because the food that sacrificed for idols had come from God. Also he said that ***food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.*** But we need to be careful how to exercise our freedom, that we will not be a stumbling block, or may look like bad example to others. According to Paul at that time some brothers who their conscious is weak ***are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol.*** Accustomed to idols it means they have fear from idols and demons. So when those weak brothers when they will see you eating in the temple of idols they will conclude that such food that is offered to idols can be eaten and by your example and your action they will be encouraged to do so. In this way because they believe that such food is offered to idols and demons that they fear and by still eating such food, their faith will be destroyed.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Therefore since such action of yours by eating in temples of idols can be a way of sinning against others, therefore Paul recommended not to eat such food at all when he said about himself, ***“if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.” (1Corinthians 8:13)*** Therefore we will follow what Paul had decided to avoid sinning against the Lord and against others because ***“<sup>21</sup> It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.” (Romans 14:21)*** As you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord makes me more sensitive to the people needs and not to be a stumbling block for them. Give me the understanding to realize all that and apply it in my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*