

# Food

## Part 7

More to be said about food that is sacrificed for idols. In link to such subject let us read also **1Corinthians 10:14-22** <sup>14</sup>*Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.* <sup>15</sup>*I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.* <sup>16</sup>*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?* <sup>17</sup>*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.* <sup>18</sup>*Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?* <sup>19</sup>*Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?* <sup>20</sup>*No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.* <sup>21</sup>*You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.* <sup>22</sup>*Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?"* Paul spoke again about not to eat food sacrificed for idols when he was teaching against idol worship as he said, **"My dear friends, flee from idolatry."** Not only worshipping idols is idolatry but doing the same practices of idol worshippers and yoking yourselves with them is also idol worship. To take part in the Lord's Supper by breaking the bread and sharing the cup we need to be remaining in Christ and His word. But if we do the Lord's Supper but we are not remaining in His word then we are bringing judgment on ourselves, <sup>27</sup>*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.* <sup>28</sup>*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.* <sup>29</sup>*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1Corinthians 11:27-29) Paul told the Corinthians that <sup>19</sup>*Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?* <sup>20</sup>*No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons."* He make it clear to them that food sacrificed to idols are nothing as well as idols are nothing. But He also told them that the Pagans sacrifices are offered to demons and **"I do not want you to be participants with demons."** Paul said that to them because their life style was sinful, they were grumblers, immoral, idolatrous and testing the Lord with their wicked deeds. They were doing the same things that pagans doing. They were not only eating the food sacrificed for demons but they were adopting the same lifestyle of pagans. Therefore He told them, <sup>21</sup>*You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons."*

Now here the application for us why we don't recommend eating such food that is sacrificed for idols? If we are allowing our people to eat such kind of food that sacrificed for idols then we are approving the fellowship with the non believers and in such a situation we are not blessed because God's word says, **"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers."**(Psalm 1:1)

Therefore if we allow eating such food that sacrificed for idols then we are inviting the work of Satan in the mid of the body of Christ because we are breaking the Scripture that says, <sup>14</sup>*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?* <sup>15</sup>*What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?* <sup>16</sup>*What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."* (2Corinthians 6:14-16)

Keeping fellowship and spending time and eating with non-believers are sitting in the seat of mockers, which will impart to you many wrong things that you should not learn. **"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers."**(Psalm 1:1) Please don't say that you are strong and you can protect yourself, <sup>33</sup>*Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."* <sup>34</sup>*Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame."* (1Corinthians 15:33-34)

Some may say then how we can evangelize to the non-believers, and others may say that Jesus went to sinners and had fellowship and ate with them. If you are moving to the people to evangelize to them and to bring them to Christ then there is no problem but if you are going to the people only to eat and to drink and you are after your stomach then that is idol worship and don't use the Scripture to hide your wrong motive. It is not the food that is sacrificed to idol is of matter, but what is in your heart and what is your motive in going to such places that is the concern of God in your life. Some people they go with non-believers and they love to be invited to parties because they want to enjoy food. Also others they go to such places where food sacrificed to idols is distributed because food is expensive. But they are not aware that if they trust God and obey Him, He will feed them and provide for them their daily needs, **"Give us today our daily bread."** (Matthew 6:11)

You may ask if we are invited by non-believers then what we do, for sure they put in front of us certain food and that could be sacrificed to idols? You ask yourself why you need to go there. Are you going to enjoy food, and spent time to gossip and receive favour from such people? If that is your reason then better not to go, God is not glorified in such things. But if you are going and in your mind and heart that is a good opportunity for you to introduce Christ for this person or this family then you may go and the Lord is with you. <sup>27</sup>*If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience."* (1Corinthians 10:27) You may eat whatever put in front of you because there is no need now to refuse and argue with the person who invited you about that because your focus is to give the message of Christ to that lost soul/souls.

<sup>28</sup>*But if anyone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience' sake — <sup>29</sup>the other man's conscience, I mean, not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?* <sup>30</sup>*If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?"* (1Corinthians 10:28-30) Therefore if a brother or sister may get stumble by your righteous act then you explain to them what you did but if he or she does not understand what you did then better to refrain from eating such food.

As well as if the people whom you go to visit are not willing to follow Christ and had rejected the message then you may go to them and try to give the message again but do not eat the food that offered to idols. Because in eating with them such food you are agreeing with their stand and believe. And that is another point why we don't eat or recommend receiving food sacrificed for idols, because in doing so we are telling them there is nothing wrong with your faith in idols. Or in another word what we are telling to them there is no difference between our God and your gods.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The time had come for you to be mature and to behave in a responsible way. Don't think about yourself and about your stomach only. But be aware of the type of person that God wants you to be. Repent from worldliness and come out from the worldly friends and follow and apply the word of God in your life, <sup>17</sup>*Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.* <sup>18</sup>*"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."* (2Corinthians 6:17-19) 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 I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I commit myself to cut my fellowship with the following people \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I will spend my time in prayer, reading your word, fellowship with your people and serving you. Give me the strength and the perseverance and the self-control to do all that for you. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.