

The Clean and the Unclean

(Genesis 7:2-3; 8:20)

Isa 66:17; 65:3-4 (NRSV) — It seems at the end of this age, those who are destroyed are the ones who eat the flesh of pigs, vermin, and rodents. Dt 14:8; Lev 11:7-8 — Pig, as in bacon & eggs for breakfast and roast pork after church on Sunday, is a common Christian dish, but not for “My people” (Eze 44:23-24; 1 Pet 2:10) who are in a covenant relationship — “Me and you” (Ex 31:12-17).

In Dt 14:8 and Lev 11:7-8 the pig is the *most* despicable and filthy of all animals, which only is eaten by pagans. You are what you eat, and begin to look like them, too. The pig is the best-known and most eaten of all unclean animals, and is most to be avoided by the holy people who belong to Yahweh.

The pig and the dog are detestable examples of creatures who gobble down filth. The dog and the pig run a close contest. Pork transmits disease to humans if not cooked very well done, and even then makes one look like a pig, according to a study in Germany.

In Gen 7:2 is the command to take seven of every clean animal and only two of every unclean animal. The additional animals were used as food and for offerings once the water subsided (Gen 8:20-22). These offerings, as Gen 4:4, were not sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. This was not instituted until 430 years after Abraham, by the institution of the Law of Moses (Gal 3:16-25).

So when the sons of Israel were freed from bondage in Egypt, they received from Yahweh through Moses, His servant, the commandments, statutes, and judgments, including the dietary laws — the Law, or *instructions* as the word *Torah* means. The sons of Israel faithfully keeping them showed that they were a chosen people, a special treasure, and a kingdom of priests (Ex 19:5-6). Also, the sign of the covenant was keeping the Sabbath (Ex 31:13).

Just as life itself is governed by certain laws, just as the sun, moon, and stars, and all the planets and galaxies are governed by the laws of nature, so it is with the natural law of conscience kept by the righteous people among the unrighteous in the nations on earth (Rom 2:14-15). Man's every act is governed by the will of his conscience in his soul, for the good or for the bad of mankind, according to his daily response to this natural law of the Creator. But the Redeemed Man must be taught by God through a Mediator for life in a higher dimension, as a light to the nations who do not know God as Redeemer.

Ex 19:5-6 — The laws concerning diet, just as the Sabbath, are a sign between God and His people — “Me and you” (Ex 31:13). The food laws specify what is and what isn't *food*. Food is to be eaten. All *food* is eatable. All *food* is good. All *food* is clean. God made food for man. The laws concerning diet showed that Israel is God's special people, chosen out of the world to be a light to those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death (Lk 1:78-79). They are a kingdom of priests unto Yahweh above all the people of the Earth (Ex 19:5-6; Dt 14:2; 1 Pet 2:9,10,12; Jn 13:34-35; 17:21-23).

Nothing else except what is food is fit for the table of the King and His people. Yahweh had a reason for preserving more clean animals than unclean for use after the flood, because all other animals and vegetation were destroyed by the flood, and it took many days for the vegetation to bloom again on the earth, at least on the mountaintop, and no life was left besides fish, probably, until the water receded.

So Yahweh accepted Noah's burnt offering of thanksgiving — the clean animals and clean birds he offered (Gen 8:20). Then Gen 9:1-7 was added to the natural law of man in Gen 3:16-19 and 22, the everlasting covenant of Isa 24:5. It's not only natural law, but common sense, if there is any common knowledge left among men of the earth (Gen 3:22; Isa 24:6; Rev 16:9).

The natural law of clean and unclean was given to man before the Flood (Gen 7:2), and was later written by Moses as part of the covenant “... ‘between Me and you,’

says Yahweh.” The “you” expressed the corporate identity of a nation He called out of the world.

Lev 11 — These laws were kept by Israel. Even ten years after the Resurrection and birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost, Peter was devout in keeping them (Acts 10:14), and these laws will still be in effect when Messiah returns (Isa 66:17, NRSV), and will still be in effect during the millennial kingdom.

Eze 44:23 is not only natural law, but the law of life itself. Rom 2:12-16 — God made it so that man, made in His likeness, would *know* that pigs and dogs especially, along with the other unclean things, are not fit to eat, due to the diseases they carry or cause in man. Man learns by experience on some things, but by common sense on others, as by what they eat in their diet, which makes men just or filthy as they are.

But unclean animals are servants of man in keeping the earth clean for them, as also certain fish and sea animals.

Eze 44:23 — “They shall teach My people to discern the difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the profane.” In Lev 11:1-47 and Dt 14 we find itemized and differentiated the clean and unclean animals of the air, land, and sea. Even natural man must learn the difference. Doctors today take patients off certain things for the good of their health. This is called the law of cause and effect. Do you desire good health and long life? Read Ex 15:26 *aloud!*

2 Ths 2:15; 3:6 — We know that multiple health disorders come from certain things people eat, which they call *food*, but are *not food* at all. Our Father distinguishes between food and poison with the sign of crossbones. Our Father warned that sickness and disease would surely come upon His people if they disregard His instruction (*Torah*). Jms 5:15-16 — Those who are sick due to their disregard of His instructions regarding diet will not be healed unless they can repent, and then only by the word of the elders, etc. But deliberate sin is a sin unto death (1 Jn 5:16-17; Jms 5:19-20; Heb 6:4-6; 10:26-31).

Before doctors came on the scene, before the invention of the microscope and the advancements of medical technology, our Father instructed especially His special, holy, peculiar people to separate the clean from the unclean meats. But having been brainwashed by Christian theologians, we were made to believe that since we are not under the Law of God, we can eat as we please, even pasteurized cow's milk and chocolate and Coca-Cola, etc. We were made to believe a lie — that since Jesus died on the cross, we can now eat, drink, and be merry with every creeping thing we want.

Supposedly, all animals and fishes were now cleansed for human consumption, and now it is food, since all food is now clean, as Jesus declared it so in Mk 7:19 (NKJ, NIV, NASB, etc.). But the NU¹ added this to our Master's words, and its editors are now in death waiting for their final judgment and execution (2 Pet 3:16).

All my pastors led me to believe that Mt 15:11 allows me to eat pigs, and buzzards, too, if they tasted as good as pigs do. It's just up to me to choose. But they failed to instruct me to read on in Mt 15:12-20, especially the last verse. The whole subject and context, as in Mk 7:5-19, is eating with unwashed hands, not whether pigs and dogs and buzzards and monkey brains are fit to eat (Mk 7:20-22).

Evidently Peter, in Acts 10:14, just didn't get it if what God was trying to say was that unclean meat is now clean, changing the nature and eating habits of pigs. But as Peter said in 2 Pet 2:20-22, pigs still do the same old things, and dogs do, too. They never change unless they are converted.

So if only I had had instructions during my childhood days to teach me according to 1 Jn 2:27, which prepares one for verse 28, I would have known better in light of the Scriptures and our Master's very words (Mt 15:2-3), understanding a parable as Pr 2:22. Mt 15:19-20 — LOOK AT VERSE 19!!! — It was a *parable*, understand, simple one???

¹ Nestle-Aland/UBS critical edition of the Greek New Testament, upon which most modern English Bible translations are based.

The point our Master was trying to make here is that the attitude of the person will determine the purity of his actions, which He makes clear in Mt 15:17-18 (NIV), and that evil thoughts bring about evil deeds, which is the root of their problem. Mk 7:19 — Bowel movement purges the excrement from the man (KJV). This has nothing to do with making a declaration that all the sons of God could now eat it, since all foods were clean now, and you can eat anything set before you now. (But a true Israelite would set nothing unclean before his brother.) He did not cleanse all unclean animals (Mt 5:17-20; Rom 8:4), but was merely stating the mechanical facts of eating and digestion — that waste material simply was carried off by the digestive system and into the sewer.

Rom 3:31; 8:4; Mt 15:2,3,6; Mk 7:3-8 — The point in Mk 7:5 and Mt 15:20 (which to the enlightened goes without saying) was concerned with unwashed hands according to the tradition of the elders (Pharisees). Mk 7:7-9,13 — Their traditions protected an evil, unproductive way, which was not the Way of Yahweh. Then in verse 14 the Master began to speak in a parable, an illustration to expose their hypocrisy (Mt 23:25-28). The whole issue was centered on the traditions of unanointed men with outward rituals that made them appear holy (Mt 6:5). But our Master spoke in parables to be understood only by those who are willing to do His will (Jn 7:17; Ps 78:2; Eze 24:3; Mt 13:10-17,34-35; Eze 20:49; Mk 4:10-13; Lk 8:9-10). Sorting people out is the purpose of a parable (Mt 13:47-51).

Our Master wants us to have a complete change of mind, attitude, and heart (Phil 2:5), not just outward appearance, for eye service.

In Acts 10:9-20 is the story revealed in verse 28 — another parable. But Peter understood that it was speaking of people, not rotten, stinking, unclean animals that people who call themselves God's holy people eat because they misunderstand the parable, as Mt 13:13 explains.

Peter never in all his life, and especially *after the Master's* ascension and the Day of Pentecost, ever ate anything unclean, because his Master never taught him to eat so as

to break the Law of his God (Isa 66:17). Mt 28:19-20 — Never was Peter commanded to break the Law, dietary or otherwise (Mt 5:17-19). These instructions about clean and unclean are love for us, His chosen people, setting us apart from all others, and giving us understanding in all things (1 Jn 2:27).

In Acts 10:14-16 the unclean things were taken up, but verse 15 was the subject in context, as was revealed to Peter in verses 19-29, as he said plainly in verse 28 what was the meaning of the vision. But those Christians who are as Mt 13:13 assume Peter's vision was the declaration that God now, ten years after the Resurrection, declared all foods clean. But all *foods* were already clean, as Dt 14 and Lev 11 said for God's holy people. God made *food* to be eaten. All *food* is clean; what is *not food* is unclean for us to eat.

Also, 1 Cor 10:25-27 is in the context of what is offered to idols — eat without asking about it, since idols are nothing at all anyway. The point was that since the animal is offered to idols, its worshippers were sharing a common meal, and to eat it at their Breaking of Bread supper, knowing it was offered to an idol, would be compromise, joining in a pagan sacrificial meal, having fellowship with another spirit (2 Cor 6:14) in religious service or worship.

1 Tim 4:1-5 speaks for itself — if we can receive it in thanksgiving, for it is known to be clean or unclean by the word of God, set apart for the holy, sanctified by the Word and prayer (Lev 11; Dt 14). We are not to eat what is not made to be eaten by man, such as carnivorous animals (cats, dogs, lions, pelicans, owls, eagles, etc.) or garbage eaters (pigs, dogs, shellfish, vultures, crows, etc.), but only our Father's creatures which we know by His instructions that we can receive with thanksgiving, because we know the truth (Jn 17:17).

Eating swine's flesh (Isa 66:17) is a serious offense, so go out of the false church (Isa 52:11; 2 Cor 6:17-18).

In the council of Acts 15 circumcision was a big issue — the wrong spirit under the Law (verses 1 and 5), as Gal 6:12,15 reveals this false spirit. But Rom 4:9-12 tells of the faith of our father Abraham 430 years before the Law was given. So we go back to Abraham, in exactly the same spirit of faith. We are Israel (Gal 6:16; 3:29).

Christians are made to believe that these four requirements of the Law (Acts 15:20) are all they need to apply to themselves. But the apostles and James and the elders, knowing the practices of the Gentiles and what they were accustomed to in the past, in pagan worship of deities through offering animal sacrifices, with temple prostitutes, eating animal flesh with the blood, and drinking blood, which are contrary to our God, needed to restrain these Gentile believers so that both Jewish and Gentile converts could worship together (Gal 3:26-29; Acts 13:42-46; 17:2; 18:4; Dt 14; Lev 11). So Acts 15 does not show that believers are not under any restraints found in the Old Testament. That is folly, for Moses was read every Sabbath.

The person who desires to live in complete harmony with Yahweh's instructions for His holy people will not disregard His love for them. For Paul said, "The Law is good" (Rom 7:12). We will not neglect the instruction of His love for us concerning what is good for us and bad for us, the clean and unclean, so that our bodies are fit for the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. His instructions are for our own good, and we will realize the blessing that comes from them if we love Him. (Jn 14:15,21 — or verse 24?)