

THE ISSUE THAT WON'T GO AWAY



- Romans 14:14
- Western Christianity has declared the Levitical food laws abolished
- However the oldest Greek NT manuscripts offer some discrepancies
- Acts 10:11 – 15
- English “unclean” is incorrect; the word is “common”
- ***Koinos*** = common
- ***Akathartos*** = unclean



WHAT WE EAT MATTERS TO GOD

- In Western Culture diet and Sabbath are thorny issues because they restrict our individualism and freedom of personal choice
- The Kingdom of Heaven is NOT a Democracy!
- God has made eating a moral issue, because he ordained Laws about it
- Obedience is God's love language



AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE
WE WILL SERVE THE LORD



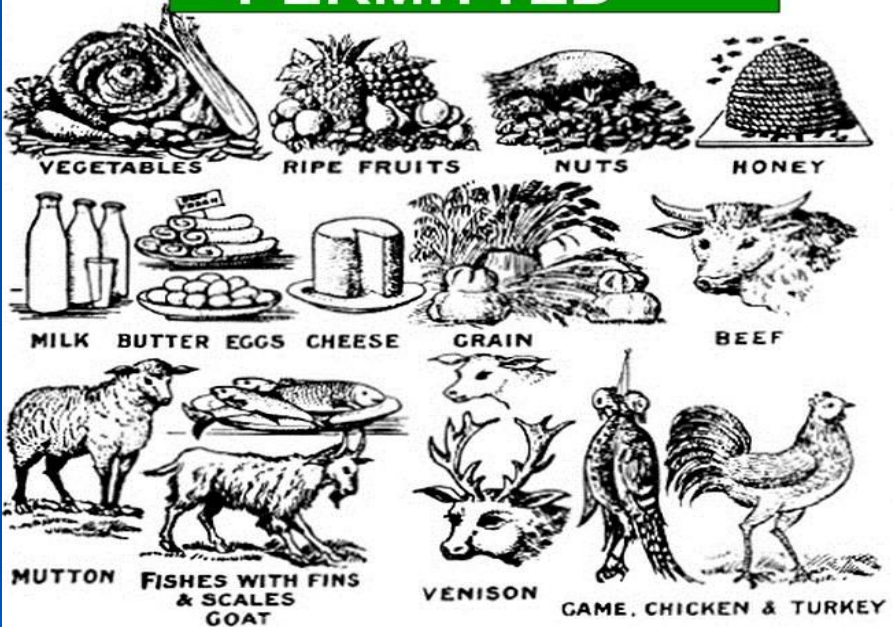
GOD'S FIRST LAW TO MANKIND CONCERNED WHAT WE EAT

- Genesis 3:1 – 7
- BEFORE the Law of Moses or the Hebrews, God made a dietary law
- Eve didn't like it that she was restricted; this attitude has come down to us and we have it as well
- Kosher rules in Leviticus 11
- Judaism rules are many more and more restrictive

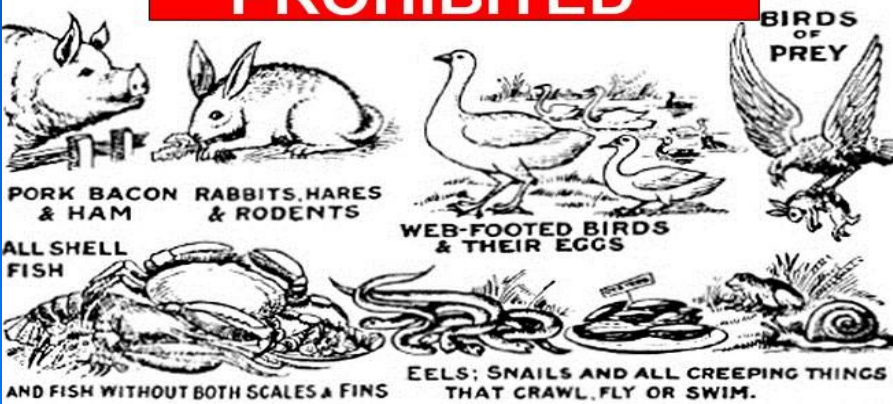


“COMMON” IS NOT A FOOD CATEGORY IN THE TORAH

PERMITTED



PROHIBITED



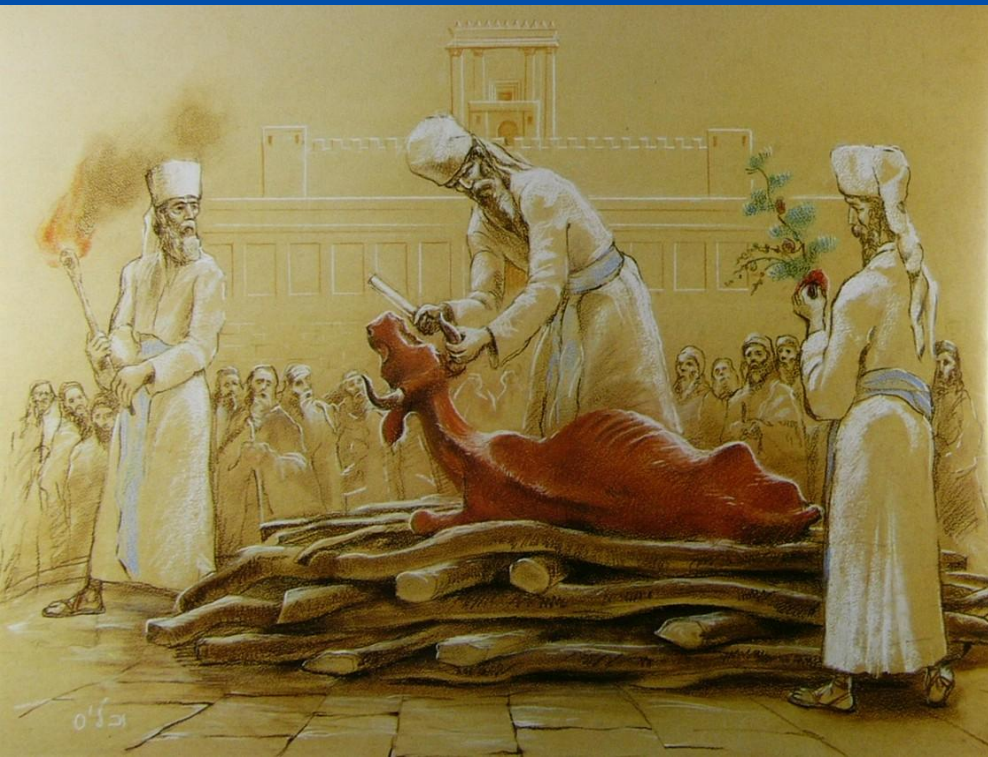
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CLEAN

UNCLEAN

WHEN Obedience IS Hard



- “Nothing is common of itself” means that food has no intrinsic condition
- Pig meat is not made of evil substance, but chicken is made of good substance
- ***Peskita de-Rab Kahana***
- ***“...I swear: the corpse does not have the power by itself to defile....the mixture of ash and water does not have the power of itself to cleanse...the purifying power of the Red Heifer is a decree of the Holy One....you are not permitted to transgress..”***

IT'S NOT THE SUBSTANCE, IT'S THE STATUS

- “Common” food was not be eaten
- The rationale for Paul’s injunction is about “love your neighbor”
- It is up to God, not fellow Believers, to judge others for not following the dietary laws
- It was Jewish Believers in Rome who were upset with what gentile Believers were eating



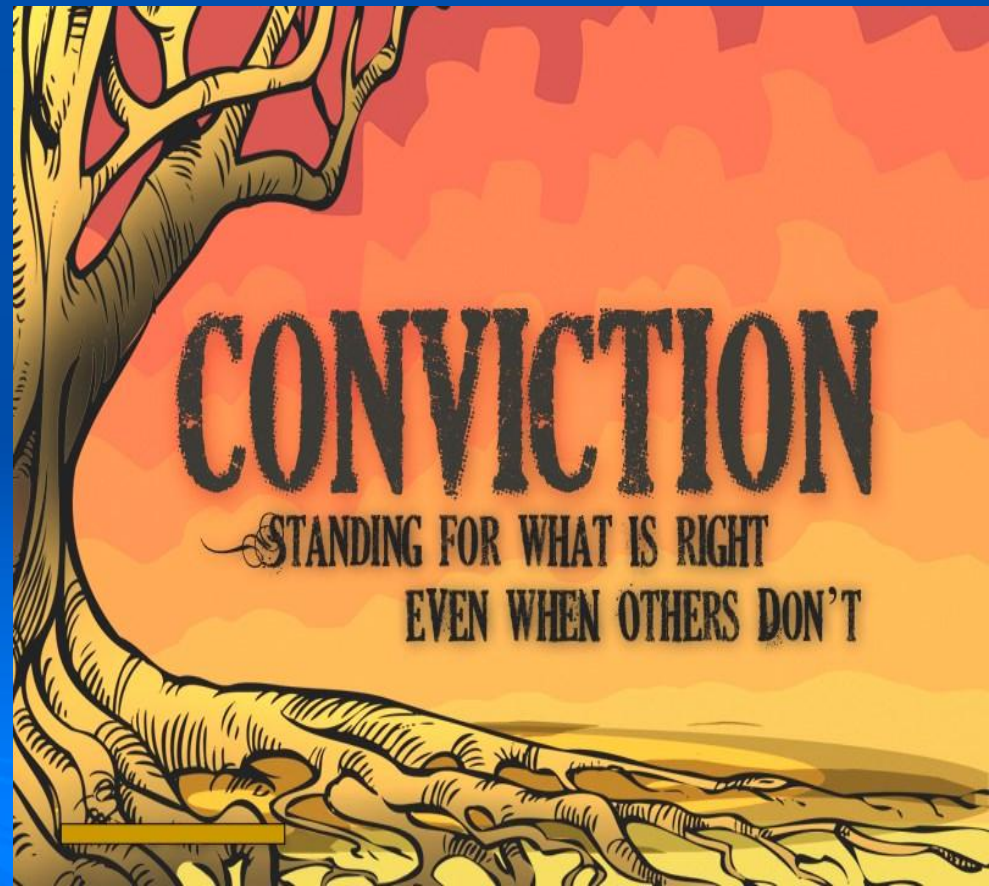
Oy veh !!
I'm kosher?



Respect

A Matter of Honoring God

- **Gentiles**: Do not let your unrestricted eating habits offend Believing Jews
- **Jews**: Do not let your devotion to eating kosher turn into a bad thing by demanding it of your neighbor
- Do not make or break relationships based on food
- Have a respectful attitude that demonstrates Christ's love



**“....all things
are clean....”**



- **Kathartos** = clean
- In the sense of “God abolished clean and unclean”, this goes against statements of Paul and others in the NT
- 1Cor.6:9 – 11
- Rev. 21:22 – 27
- Clearly the issues of clean and unclean continue on into the Messianic Age
- God creates all things as acceptable to Him
- Clean and unclean are statuses that God assigns to things according to His will
- It was a Jewish principle of Paul’s era that all things are created inherently clean, even if later some things God deems unclean

ROMANS 15

- Chapter 15 based entirely on what Paul taught in chapter 14
- “We who are strong” includes Paul himself
- Did Paul eat kosher?
- Acts 26:1 – 5
- Acts 24:14
- Acts 22:3
- Paul followed the food laws because he claims he continued to follow the Torah
- Therefore: the strong include those who obey the Levitical food laws



THE DUTY OF THE STRONG



- The strong must bear the weaknesses of the weak
- This is also a test of faith for the strong
- It is NOT human nature for the strong to help the weak
- Strongest man ever was Yeshua, and He gave everything to help others
- Those who have more trust are to help those who (for the moment) have less trust
- The weak have as much value in the Kingdom of God as the strong