

## Correspondence Course Lesson 23

### Clean and Unclean

From the beginning of creation, the Heavenly Father Yahweh laid out in His word laws concerning clean and unclean for what food to eat and also proper cleanliness and hygiene. These laws are not religious in nature, but only very practical to give people of all nations in every era of time, the proper guidelines for having a healthy, vibrant, energetic life. In this lesson we will examine these laws and expose some of the falsehoods that modern Christianity has assumed concerning these laws, from their folk law and tradition.

Did the laws of clean and unclean start with the Mosaic and Levitical law on Mount Sinai, or were these food and health laws there from creation?

**Gen 7:1** *And YAHWEH said to Noah, You and all your house come into the ark, for I have seen you righteous before Me in this generation.*

**Gen 7:2** *You shall take to yourself from **every clean animal by sevens, male and female, and from the animal that is not clean by two, male and female.***

**Gen 6:21** *And take for yourself **all food that is eaten**, and gather to yourself. And let it be for you and for them for food.*

**COMMENT:** The above scripture goes back more than 4,000 years ago, which is about 600 years before the Torah was given to Moses on Mount Sinai by Yahweh. It is also very clear from the above scriptures that there were animals that were clean that were meant to be eaten, and there were unclean animals that were not meant to be eaten.

If we look at creation week we will see that at creation Yahweh had judicial order to everything including what plants He created for mankind to eat, as well as what clean animals He set out at creation to be eaten and what unclean animals He created not to be eaten, but for other purposes.

**Gen 1:20** *And Elohim said, Let the waters swarm with swarms having a living soul; and let the birds fly around, over the earth, on the face of the expanse of the heavens.*

**Gen 1:21** *And Elohim created the great crocodiles, and all that creeps, having a living soul, which swarmed the waters, according to its kind; and every bird with wing according to its kind. And Elohim saw that it was good.*

**Gen 1:24** *And Elohim said, Let the earth bring forth the soul of life according to its kind cattle, and creepers, and its beasts of the earth, according to its kind. And it was so.*

**Gen 1:25** *And Elohim made the beasts of the earth according to its kind, and cattle according to its kind, and all creepers of the ground according to its kind. And Elohim saw that it was good.*

The fact that an animal may not be clean for human consumption does not mean that animal may not have another purpose in Yahweh's creation, as some insects are made to simply eat other insects, and some, such as bees, are made to cross pollinate plants for a proper bountiful harvest. In Israel, even pigs are used as bomb sniffers since they have a good nose for smelling.

The first five books of the Bible are called the Torah or books of Moses. In Hebrew, the root for the word Torah actually comes from the same root as for the word 'teacher', and a proper definition of Torah should be instruction. The Torah is Yahweh's instruction or manual for the human race on everything in life on how to live. So let's go to the Torah and see what it states about clean and unclean foods for human consumption.

**Lev 11:1** *And YAHWEH spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,*

**Lev 11:2** *Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, **These are the living things which you shall eat out of all the animals which are on the earth.***

**Lev 11:3** *Any that divides the hoof and is wholly cloven footed, bringing up the cud, among the living things, you may eat it.*

**Lev 11:4** *Only, **you may not eat these**, of those bringing up the cud, and of those dividing the hoof: **the camel**, though it brings up the cud, yet it does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you;*

**Lev 11:5** *and the **rock badger**, though it brings up the cud, yet it does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you;*

**Lev 11:6** *and **the hare**, though it brings up the cud, yet it does not divide the hoof; it is unclean to you;*

- Lev 11:7** and **the swine**, though it divides the hoof and is cloven footed, yet it does not bring up the cud; it is unclean to you.
- Lev 11:8** You shall not eat of their flesh, and you shall not touch their dead body; they are unclean to you.
- Lev 11:9** Of all that are in the waters, you shall eat these; any one that has fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the brooks, you may eat them.
- Lev 11:10** But any one that does not have fins and scales in the seas, and in the brooks, of any swarming creature of the waters, and of any creature which lives in the waters; they are to be detested by you.
- Lev 11:11** Yes, they shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat of their flesh and you shall shun their dead bodies.
- Lev 11:12** Any one that does not have fins and scales in the waters, it shall be an unclean thing to you.
- Lev 11:13** And these you shall count unclean among the fowls; they shall not be eaten; they are unclean: the eagle, and the black vulture and the bearded vulture,
- Lev 11:14** and the kite, and the falcon, according to its kind;
- Lev 11:15** every raven according to its kind;
- Lev 11:16** and the ostrich, and the great owl, and the gull, and small hawks, according to its kind;
- Lev 11:17** and the little owl, and the Egyptian vulture, and the eared owl;
- Lev 11:18** and the barn owl, and the pelican and the owl-vulture;
- Lev 11:19** and the stork, the heron according to its kind, and the hoopoe, and the bat.
- Lev 11:20** Every flying swarming creature going on all four, it is an abomination to you.
- Lev 11:21** Only, this you may eat of any swarming thing which flies, which goes on all four, which has legs above its feet, to leap with them on the earth;
- Lev 11:22** these are those you may eat: the locusts according to its kind, and the bald locust according to its kind, and the long horned grasshopper according to its kind, and the short horned grasshopper according to its kind.
- Lev 11:23** But every swarming thing which flies, which has four feet, it is unclean to you.
- Lev 11:24** And by these you shall be made unclean; any who touches their dead body is unclean until the evening.
- Lev 11:25** And anyone who lifts up their dead body shall wash his garments and shall be unclean until the evening;
- Lev 11:26** even every living thing which divides the hoof, and is not cloven footed, and does not bring up the cud, they are unclean to you; anyone who touches them shall be unclean.
- Lev 11:27** And any going on its paws among all the living things which go on all four, they are unclean to you; anyone who touches their dead body is unclean until the evening;
- Lev 11:28** and he who lifts up their dead body shall wash his garments and shall be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you.
- Lev 11:29** And these shall be unclean to you among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the weasel, and the mouse, and the great lizard according to its kind,
- Lev 11:30** and the gecko, and the monitor, and the lizard, and the sand lizard, and the barn owl.
- Lev 11:31** These are unclean to you among all which swarm; anyone who touches them in their death is unclean until the evening.
- Lev 11:32** And anything on which any one of them falls in their death is unclean, whether of any vessel of wood, or garment, or skin, or sack; any vessel in which work is done shall be caused to go into water, and shall be unclean until the evening; then it shall be cleaned.
- Lev 11:33** And any earthen vessel into the midst of which any one of them falls, whatever is in it shall be unclean, and you shall break it.
- Lev 11:34** And of all the food which may be eaten, that on which such water falls shall be unclean, and all drink that may be drunk in any such vessel shall be unclean.
- Lev 11:35** And anything on which any part of their dead body falls shall be unclean; an oven or hearth shall be broken down; they are unclean; yes, they are unclean to you.
- Lev 11:36** But a fountain or a well, a collection of water, shall be clean; only that touching the dead body is unclean.
- Lev 11:37** And when any part of their dead body falls on any sowing seed which is sown, it shall be clean;
- Lev 11:38** but when water is put on the seed, and any of its dead body has fallen on it, it shall be unclean to you.
- Lev 11:39** And when any of the animals which are food for you dies, he who touches its dead body is unclean until the evening;
- Lev 11:40** and he who eats of its dead body shall wash his garments and shall be unclean until the evening; and he who lifts up its dead body shall wash his garments and shall be unclean until the evening.
- Lev 11:41** And every swarming thing which swarms on the earth is unclean; it shall not be eaten.
- Lev 11:42** Anything going on its belly, and any going on all four, and all having many feet, even every swarming thing that swarms on the earth, you shall not eat them, for they are unclean.
- Lev 11:43** You shall not pollute yourselves with any swarming thing which swarms, nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, so that you should be defiled by them.

**Lev 11:44 For I am YAHWEH your Elohim, and you have sanctified yourselves, and you have become holy, for I am holy. And you shall not defile your persons with any swarming thing which creeps on the earth; Lev 11:45 for I am YAHWEH who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to become your Elohim; and you shall be holy, for I am holy.**

**Lev 11:46 This is the law of the animals, and of the fowl, and of every living creature which moves in the waters, and every creature which swarms on the earth,**

**Lev 11:47 to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the living thing that may be eaten and the living thing that may not be eaten.**

**COMMENT:** So we can clearly see that the chapter above is not simply a type of a spiritual analogy, or that Yahweh is using animals and food to just make a spiritual lesson or meaning, but the creator of the universe is simply in The Torah (*His manual for life*) telling His chosen nation Israel what foods He created for consumption and what foods He did not. It is quite interesting from a health perspective to look at the foods that Yahweh told Israel were unclean (unhealthy) to eat.

The pig is an extremely dirty animal that will eat practically anything and was simply not created for human consumption. According to a surprising investigation by *Consumer Reports in 2012*, 69% percent of all raw pork samples tested— were contaminated with the dangerous bacteria *Yersinia enterocolitica*. According to the featured report, they also found salmonella, staphylococcus aureus, or listeria monocytogenes, and more common causes of food borne illness in 3 to 7 percent of samples. And 11 percent harbored enterococcus, which can indicate fecal contamination and can cause problems such as urinary-tract infections. Trichinosis is also at high risk to contract from eating pork if the meat is not cooked well enough as the contaminated meat is infected with the larvae of a worm called *Trichinella spiralis*.

There are also health dangers from eating Shellfish. They are bottom feeders, and could filter in waste that may be harmful for humans to consume. Shellfish are a high allergen-causing food, and Shellfish allergies are surprisingly common around the world. Nearly 7 million Americans are allergic to shellfish or other seafood, according to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network.

Shellfish have a very simple digestive system, making it difficult for them to expel wastes. When you eat shellfish, you often end up eating those wastes as well. Shellfish, as well as other fish, are known to contain mercury. Mercury is one of the most hazardous of the heavy metals, and can lead to serious health problems. In addition to mercury, some shellfish may contain pesticides, metals or other contaminants from the water they were in.

Shrimp and squid tend to have high levels of cholesterol. Shellfish from contaminated waters can also at times be a bearer of food illnesses, such as E.coli, Salmonella, and Hepatitis A.

Similar health concerns are raised with Yahweh's food laws on the restricting of eating rodents, and insects etc. These are very practical health laws showing that the foods that Yahweh restricts His people from eating are foods that are extremely unhealthy, and even can be toxic to the human body. These laws are not religious or ritualistic in nature, but are put in scripture as a very practical, functional, guideline for humans to use in deciding which foods they are going to eat.

Does abstaining from unclean foods help to also keep one Holy (sanctified or set apart) from the world?

**Lev 11:44 For I am YAHWEH your Elohim, and you have sanctified yourselves, and you have become holy, for I am holy. And you shall not defile your persons with any swarming thing which creeps on the earth; Lev 11:45 for I am YAHWEH who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to become your Elohim; and you shall be holy, for I am holy.**

**1st Cor 6:20 You were bought with a price; then glorify YAHWEH in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to YAHWEH.**

**COMMENT:** Although the command for clean and unclean food in Leviticus 11 was put there mostly for practical health reasons, it also is very clear by the above scripture that it is also a sign of sanctification to set apart the people of Yahweh from the defiled world around them.

So, although the reasoning behind the laws are health related in nature, we also see though that obedience to these

laws makes one set apart and Holy as Yahweh is set apart and Holy. Also, since Yahweh's very Spirit is indwelling in a true believer through baptism and the laying on of hands, then to purposely eat unclean food that Yahweh calls defiled would be defiling the Holy Spirit, which dwells within the physical body of the believer.

**1st Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, which you have from Elohim, and you are not of yourselves?**

**1st Cor 6:20 You were bought with a price; then glorify Elohim in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to Elohim.**

Also, since the laws in question were based on health concerns and obedience, it would make absolutely no sense that in the New Covenant when the penalty of one's sins are paid for by the blood of Yahshua that somehow this fact would change the dietary laws that we have been discussing.

It is a totally illogical argument as the food laws have to do with human beings having vibrant health, and being set apart to Yahweh, and the life, death and resurrection of Yahshua Messiah would not change the fact of what Yahweh created as healthy or unhealthy for mankind to eat.

Does the New Testament state that the dietary laws of Leviticus 11 are abrogated?

**Mat 5:17 Do not think that I came to annul the Torah or the Prophets; I did not come to annul, but to fulfill.**

**Mat 5:18 Truly I say to you, Until the heaven and the earth pass away, in no way shall one yod or one stroke pass away from the Torah until all comes to pass.**

**Mat 5:19 Therefore, whoever loosens one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the worst in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever does and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven**

**COMMENT:** From the very mouth of the Messiah, Yahshua clearly stated that not one law of the original Torah would be abrogated. He even stated that it would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away, then one of the eternal laws of the Torah. Then, why would Christianity not only believe that the dietary laws are done away with, but that Yahshua Himself was the one who did away with them? It is because of a blatant mistranslation in the King James Bible from a scripture in the book of Mark. Look at the following scripture:

**Mark 7:1 And the Pharisees and scribes who came from Jerusalem gathered around Him.**

**Mark 7:2 And seeing some of His disciples eating bread with unclean, that is unwashed hands, they complained.**

**Mark 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes questioned Him, Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?**

**Mark 7:6 And answering, He said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you, hypocrites; as it has been written: "This people honors Me with the lips, but their heart is far away from Me;**

**Mark 7:7 and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Isaiah 29:13)**

**Mark 7:8 For forsaking the commandment of YAHWEH, you hold the tradition of men: washing of utensils and cups, and many other such like things you do.**

**Mark 7:9 And He said to them, Well do you to set aside the commandment of YAHWEH so that you may establish your own tradition?**

**Mark 7:14 And calling all the crowd near, He said to them, All hear Me and understand.**

**Mark 7:15 There is nothing from outside the man, having entered into him, which is able to defile him. But the things going out from him, those are the things defiling the man**

**Mark 7:17 And when He entered into a house from the crowd, His disciples questioned Him about the parable.**

**Mark 7:18 And He said to them, Are you also so undiscerning? Do you not perceive that all that enters from the outside into the man is not able to defile him?**

**Mark 7:19 This is because it does not enter into his heart, but into the belly, and goes out into the waste-bowl, purging the food.**

Now the King James Bible erroneously adds the phrase in verse 19 "purging all meats" which is not in any manuscript. Some translations even add the phrase "making all meats clean". In reality, the scripture in the original manuscripts is not even speaking about anything with eating meat at all, but is stating that food that is eaten goes through the stomach and intestinal tract, and then, it is excreted out and goes into the waste-bowl, purging or eliminating the food eaten.

And actually, if you go back to the above verses 2 and 5, you will see that the debate was not even about which food was clean or unclean, but that Yahshua's disciples were eating the food without washing their hands in the traditional way of the Pharisees, which was pouring the water in a certain fashion up to the elbow.

**Mark 7:1** *And the Pharisees and scribes who came from Jerusalem gathered around Him.*

**Mark 7:2** *And seeing some of His disciples eating bread with unclean, that is unwashed hands, they complained.*

**Mark 7:5** *Then the Pharisees and scribes questioned Him, **Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?***

Now let's look at the same story in Mathew 15 and prove this point conclusively.

**Mat 15:1** *Then the scribes and Pharisees came to Yahshua from Jerusalem, saying,*

**Mat 15:2** ***Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.***

**Mat 15:10** *And calling the crowd near, He said to them, Hear and understand*

**Mat 15:11** *It is not the thing entering into the mouth that defiles the man, but the thing coming forth out of the mouth, this defiles the man.*

**Mat 15:15** *And answering, Simon Peter said to Him, Explain this parable to us.*

**Mat 15:16** *But Yahshua said, until now, even you do not understand?*

**Mat 15:17** *Do you not yet perceive that everything entering into the mouth goes into the belly, and is thrown out into the waste bowl?*

**Mat 15:18** *But whatever that proceeds from the mouth proceeds from the heart and becomes a defilement to a man.*

**Mat 15:19** *For from the heart go out evil thoughts Murder, fornication, theft, false witness, blasphemy.*

**Mat 15:20** ***These things are the things defiling the man. But eating with unwashed hands does not defile the man.***

**COMMENT:** So, when we take the above scriptures in Mark the 7th chapter and also Mathew the 15th chapter, it is extremely clear that the context of the scriptures has absolutely nothing to do with clean and unclean meat, but has to do with the Pharisees complaining that the food the disciples were eating was unclean due to their not washing their hands in the tradition of the Pharisees.

As a matter of fact, in the first century when Yahshua lived, pork was not even considered a food, as it was not meant for human consumption in the eyes of the Jewish nation back then. And if Yahshua was claiming that pork was now a clean meat to eat, why on earth did not one Pharisee contest Him on that position, since they searched high and low looking for one point to accuse him for contradicting the Torah. The reality is that the reason it was never discussed is because there is nothing even remotely in these scriptures that would make one conclude that Yahshua is promoting the eating of unclean meat, thus violating the Torah.

It is the very opposite, as we saw in Mathew the 5th chapter; that out of Yahshua's own mouth He came to uphold the Torah 100%.

**Mat 5:17** ***Do not think that I came to annul the Torah or the Prophets; I did not come to annul, but to fulfill.***

**Mat 5:18** ***Truly I say to you, Until the heaven and the earth pass away, in no way shall one yod or one stroke pass away from the Torah until all comes to pass.***

**Isa 42:1** *Behold My Servant; I will support Him; My Elect in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit on Him; He shall bring forth justice to the nations.*

**Isa 42:21** ***YAHWEH is delighted for His righteousness' sake; He will magnify the Torah and make it honorable.***

Doesn't Peter's dream in Acts the 10th chapter show that Yahweh allows believers to eat unclean food in the New Covenant?

**Acts 10:9** *And the next day, as they passed along on the road, and drawing near to the city, Simon Peter went up on the roof to pray about the sixth hour.*

**Acts 10:10** *And he hungered and desired to eat. And while they prepared for him, a stupor fell over him.*

**Acts 10:11** *And he saw the heaven being opened and a certain vessel like a great sheet coming down on him, being bound by four corners, and let down onto the earth;*

**Acts 10:12** *in which were all the four-footed animals of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the creeping things, and the birds of the heaven.*

**Acts 10:13** *And a voice came to him, Rise up, Peter, slay and eat.*

**Acts 10:14** *But Peter said, Elohim forbid my Master, **because I never did eat anything common or unclean.***

**Acts 10:15** *And again a voice came to him a second time, **What things Elohim made clean, you do not make common.***

**Act 10:16** *And this happened three times, and the vessel was taken up into the heaven again.*

**Act 10:17** *And as Peter was doubting within himself what the vision which he saw might be, even behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius stood on the porch asking about the house of Simon.*

**Acts 10:18** *And calling out, they inquired if Simon being surnamed Peter is lodged here.*

**Acts 10:19** *And as Peter pondered concerning the vision, the Spirit said to him, Behold, three men are seeking you.*

**Acts 10:20** *But rising up, go down and go with them, not discriminating, because I have sent them.*

**Acts 10:24** *And on the morrow they entered Caesarea. And Cornelius was awaiting them, having called together his relatives and the beloved friends that he had.*

**Acts 10:25** *And as Peter was coming in, meeting him, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped.*

**Acts 10:26** *But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up! I myself am also a man.*

**Acts 10:27** *And talking with him, he went in and found many having come together.*

**Acts 10:28** ***You know that it is not lawful for a Yehudean man to associate with or come near to a foreign man who is not a son of his tribe, but Elohim showed to me concerning a man not to say that he is common or unclean.***

**Act 10:34** *And opening his mouth, Peter said, **Truly I see that YAHWEH is not a respecter of faces,***

**Act 10:35** ***but in every nation the one fearing Him and working righteousness is acceptable to Him.***

**Acts 10:36** *The Word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching the good news of peace through Yahshua Messiah, He is Master YAHWEH of all.*

**Acts 10:37** ***You know the thing that happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed,***

**Acts 10:38** *Yahshua the One from Nazareth, how YAHWEH anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all those having been oppressed by the devil, because Elohim was with Him.*

**Acts 10:39** *And we are witnesses of all things which He did, both in the country of the Jews, and in Jerusalem. They did away with Him, hanging Him on a tree.*

**Acts 10:40** *YAHWEH raised Him on the third day and allowed Him to be seen openly;*

**COMMENT:** If we take Acts the 10th chapter at face value for exactly what it says and don't add to or take away anything from the scripture, one will see that it actually overwhelmingly proves that the Laws of clean and unclean in Leviticus the 11th chapter are still very much in effect in the New Covenant.

First of all, remember that this scripture is written about 10 to 12 years after the resurrection and the start of the New Covenant. It would also be written roughly 13 to 15 years after Yahshua made His COMMENTS in Mark 7 and Mathew 15 that have already been discussed. And at this point what is Peter's attitude toward meat that was considered unclean by Biblical standards?

**Acts 10:14** *But Peter said, Elohim forbid my Master, **because I never did eat anything common or unclean.***

So up to this point Peter has never eaten any type of unclean food in his entire life. So we can be pretty clear that Yahshua did not make any unclean meat clean in Mark 7 and Mathew 15. Also, people falsely assume that Yahweh is telling Peter in this dream to eat unclean food, but what exactly did Yahweh tell The Apostle Peter?

**Acts 10:12** ***in which were all the four-footed animals of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the creeping things, and the birds of the heaven.***

**Acts 10:13** ***And a voice came to him, Rise up, Peter, slay and eat.***

If you look at the picture below you will see a replica of the sheet that Peter saw with some of the animals that would have been on it.



What is most interesting is that on this sheet are clean animals, such as sheep, goats, and cows, as well as unclean animals, such as pig and lion and bear. And when Yahweh commanded Peter, He never told him to eat the unclean food, but simply to rise up and eat.

Peter could have just as easily eaten the clean meat as well as the unclean meat. If a disciple of Yahshua was eating at a restaurant buffet and there was chicken and beef meat, and also pork meat available, the believer would simply eat the clean meat, avoiding the unclean and not violate any commandment of Yahweh.

However, in the case with Peter, what was his answer to Yahweh when he saw the sheet with both clean and unclean animals?

**Acts 10:14** *But Peter said, Elohim forbid my Master, **because I never did eat anything common or unclean.***

Peter did not only say he had never eaten any unclean meat according to Leviticus the 11th chapter, but he also said he never ate anything '**common**'. What would he mean by this word common?

In the first century, the Pharisees of Yahshua's time followed something called the oral law. This was a manmade code of rules with thousands of extra added laws about the Sabbath and Torah that still even exists to this day. One of these laws is that a Jew cannot even sit at the same table with a non-Jew, and if a non-Jew would eat from a cup or plate of the Jew, the religious Jewish person would actually have to break the plate, because it became common, because it was used by a non-Jew. The word '**common**' means used by all, or not set apart or sanctified any longer.

In the first century a religious Jew would not even use olive oil if it was even pressed by a Gentile. And this is the whole reason for the dream given by Yahweh, as now salvation was going to be open to the Gentile race and due to Jewish culture and rabbinical teaching they could not meet with and eat with Jewish disciples in Messiah. Look at the following scripture to prove this point.

**Acts 10:24** *And on the morrow they entered Caesarea. And Cornelius was awaiting them, having called together his relatives and the beloved friends that he had.*

**Acts 10:25** *And as Peter was coming in, meeting him, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped.*

**Acts 10:26** *But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up! I myself am also a man.*

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**is common or unclean.**

**Acts 10:34** *And opening his mouth, Peter said, **Truly I see that YAHWEH is not a respecter of faces,***  
**Acts 10:35** *but in every nation the one fearing Him and working righteousness is acceptable to Him.*

Very clearly, if Yahweh had not given the Apostle Peter this dream showing him that Gentiles are equally able to receive salvation as Jews, then Peter would not even have sat down with Cornelius due to the oral law of the Pharisees that was engrained in him. Also, very clearly Peter states the purpose of the vision was for Yahweh to show Him not to call "**people common or unclean**", and had nothing to do with making unclean animals now somehow fit for human consumption.

Also, nowhere in scripture does the Torah ever restrict an Israelite from having contact or eating with a non-Israelite, this is written in the manmade oral law of the Jews and not in the Torah, which was written by Yahweh.

So the above story in Acts the 10th chapter in no way whatsoever would make a believer assume that through Yahshua's suffering, death, and resurrection that somehow that makes pork, an unclean animal, somehow now edible for consumption.

On the contrary, due to the strict oral law of the Jews and social status, Yahweh needed to clearly show Peter that any person on this earth, regardless of their race or ethnicity, is accepted by Yahweh if they truly repent with a pure heart and accept the sacrifice of Yahshua Messiah to pay the penalty of their sins.

With this mindset being so ingrained in Jews in the first century it was not an easy task to get rid of that mind set so quickly, even after the Apostle Peter's dream.

**Acts 11:1** *And the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the gentiles also received the Word of Elohim.*

**Acts 11:2** *And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision with him,*

**Acts 11:3** *were saying, **You went in unto uncircumcised men and ate with them.***

**Gal 2:11** *But when Peter came to Antioch, I (The Apostle Paul) opposed him to his face, because he was to be blamed.*

**Gal 2:12** *For before some came from Jacob, he ate with the Gentiles. But when they came, he drew back and separated himself, being afraid of those of the circumcision.*

**Gal 2:13** *And all the others who were from Judah submitted with him on this issue, so that even Barnabas was lead into their hypocrisy.*

**Gal 2:14** *But behold! When those who did not follow righteously the truth of the good news, I said to Peter, in front of all their eyes, "If you Judeans, live as Arameans and not as Judeans, why do you urge the Gentiles who have joined themselves to Judah to live as Judeans?"*

**COMMENT:** The book of Galatians is written about 5 to 7 years after the Apostle Peter's vision in Acts the 10th chapter, and still after such a long time he is still pressured by his Jewish counterparts to separate from eating with the Gentiles when the Jews arrived.

This shows that the cultural divide in the first century, particularly after salvation was opened to the Gentile nations was very deep, and actually was what eventually caused the Acts 15 council to decide on the issue of circumcision for Gentiles, in which it was clearly stated that non-Israelites did not have to be circumcised to join the New Covenant, but that baptism was the sign of the New Covenant.

Doesn't 1Tim 4:1-5 state that a believer can eat any meat they want as long as they give thanks for it?

**1st Tim 4:1** *But **the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, following deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,***

**1st Tim 4:2** *who with false appearance mislead and will speak lies in hypocrisy, being seared in their own conscience,*

**1st Tim 4:3** *forbidding to marry, **saying to abstain from foods, which Elohim created for partaking with thanksgiving by the believers and those knowing the truth.***

**1st Tim 4:4** *Because all things created by Elohim are good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with thanks-giving;*

**1<sup>st</sup> Tim 4:5 for it is sanctified through the Word of Elohim and prayer.**

**COMMENT:** First of all this scripture is speaking about some in the end time who are teaching doctrines of demons, not doctrines from the Torah. Secondly, it is speaking about these people (verse 3) trying to persuade brethren to abstain from foods that Elohim sanctioned are clean to eat, NOT foods that are unclean and would violate the Torah and His word.

And lastly, Paul states yes, that all *clean meats* should not be rejected, as verse 5 clearly states they are sanctified through the word of Yahweh. Pork is not sanctified through the word of Yahweh, but is an unclean animal that is restricted from eating. So 1 Timothy the 4th chapter is not at all referring to a believer eating unclean food, but is cautioning against those who are preaching vegetarianism as a Biblical food law, and claiming that Yahweh restricts the eating of meat.

In many places in the Gentile world there were many sacrifices done to idols and false deities. Since there were so many of these sacrifices some of these slain animals wound up being sold in the marketplace. So some believers were becoming vegetarians because they did not want to buy meat not knowing if it was sacrificed to an idol or not. Paul addresses this issue in the following scripture.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:4 Then concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other Elohim except one.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:5 For even if some are called gods, either in the heavens or on the earth; (even as there are many gods, and many Masters);**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:6 but to us there is one El, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him, and one Master YAHWEH, Yahshua Messiah, through whom are all things, and we by Him.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge; for some with clear conscience eat that which is offered to idols as a sacrifice; and their conscience being weak is defiled.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:8 But food will not bring us closer to Elohim. For neither if we eat do we excel, nor if we do not eat are we lacking.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:9 But be careful lest this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to the weak.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:10 For if anyone sees you, the one having knowledge, sitting in an idol-temple, will not the weak one's conscience be lifted up so as to eat things sacrificed to idols?**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:11 So the weak brother will be lost, he for whom Messiah died on your indifference.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:12 And if you offend in this way against your brothers, and influence their weak conscience, you sin against Messiah.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 8:13 On account of this, if meat offends my brother, I will not at all eat flesh forever, so that I do not offend my brother.**

**COMMENT:** When dealing with the epistles of Paul one must always look at the social environment surrounding why Paul is writing and what are the cultural issues at hand. Here, clearly, we see that due to animal sacrifices to false deities ending up in the meat market, that some brethren were advocating vegetarianism to make sure they did not eat this meat, which by the way was Biblically clean.

Does Romans 14 state that it is each person's decision what they eat without judgment?

**Rom 14:1 Assist the one who is weak in the faith, not to judgments of your thoughts.**

**Rom 14:2 One indeed believes to eat all things, but being weak, another one eats vegetables.**

**COMMENT:** Romans 14 is once again speaking about some people being so convicted about possibly meat being sold in the market to be meat that was sacrificed to an idol that they are becoming vegetarians and judging those who eat the meat to be weaker than them in the faith. Paul is dismissing this argument and stating we should not judge one another in non-doctrinal, or non-Torah based issues. It is also most important to properly have verse 14 translated.

**Rom 14:14 I know and am persuaded by Yahshua YAHWEH that nothing by itself is **common**; except to the one deeming anything to be **common, it is common**.**

Please note that in the King James Version they incorrectly translate this word as "*unclean*" instead of properly translating it as "*common*". Nothing is common by itself, but to those calling it common, but some meats are naturally unclean by the creation model.

What is the ceremonial law of clean and unclean and is it binding on a believer today?

**Num 19:1** *And YAHWEH spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,*

**Num 19:2** *This is the statute of the law which YAHWEH has commanded, saying, Speak to the sons of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer, without blemish, in which there is no blemish, on which no yoke ever came.*

**Num 19:3** *And you shall give her to Eleazar the priest, and she shall be brought forth outside the camp; and she shall be slaughtered before his face.*

**Num 19:9** *And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and shall lay them up outside the camp in a clean place. And it shall be kept for the congregation of the sons of Israel for a water of impurity; it is a sin offering.*

**Num 19:10** *And he that gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and shall be unclean until the evening; and it shall be to the sons of Israel, and to the stranger that lives among them, for a never ending statute.*

**Num 19:11** *He that touches the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.*

**Num 19:12** *He shall cleanse himself for it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean. And if he does not cleanse himself on the third day, then on the seventh day he shall not be clean.*

**Num 19:13** *Anyone who touches the dead body, the body of a man who dies, and does not cleanse himself, he shall have defiled the tabernacle of YAHWEH; and that person shall be cut off from Israel, for the water of impurity shall not be sprinkled upon him. He shall be unclean; his uncleanness shall be still on him.*

**Lev 15:19** *And if a woman's issue in her flesh is a flow of blood, she shall be in her impurity seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening.*

**Lev 15:20** *And anything on which she lies in her impurity shall be unclean; and anything on which she sits shall be unclean.*

**Lev 15:21** *And whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until the evening.*

**Lev 15:22** *And whoever touches anything on which she sits shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the evening.*

**Lev 15:23** *And if it is on the bed, or on anything on which she sits when he touches it, he shall be unclean until the evening.*

**COMMENT:** In the Torah, in the First Covenant there were physical laws of clean and unclean as we have gone over extensively in places like Leviticus the 11th chapter, and there was also what is called ceremonial laws of clean and unclean, as we see in the scriptures above.

The physical laws of clean and unclean and what animals, and birds, and fish, are clean to eat as food goes back to creation, as we have shown, and are simply laws from the Creator of humanity on what to eat to keep mankind healthy and well. However, the ceremonial laws of clean and unclean came in through the added Levitical Priesthood, which came after the Golden Calf incident and the severing of the First Covenant by Yahweh to Israel.

These ceremonial laws were not meant for logical health reasons, but were instituted to be a continual reminder of Israel's defiled spiritual state in the First Covenant, since there was no avenue to have the penalty of sin removed; only to have it covered year to year on Yom Kippur (The Day of Covering). According to the ceremonial law if someone came near a dead body he/she would be unclean until the evening. If they came near a menstruating woman they would also be ceremonially unclean until the evening.

Then after sunset, when a new day would begin, they would mikvah (ceremonially wash) in water and be clean again. In certain instances, such as a priest, they had to mikvah daily, and sometimes 4 or 5 times a day to keep them ceremonially clean for their duty in the Sanctuary (Temple) of Yahweh. We know these laws are ceremonial in nature or why else would the person miraculously become clean at sunset?

These ceremonial laws were connected to the Levitical Priesthood, which was added to the First Covenant because of transgressions (**Galatians 3:19**) to keep a continual reminder to the Israelites under this covenant of their defiled state in hope of a better covenant built on better promises (**Hebrews 8:6**). The Mikvah (ceremonial washing) that was done was only a shadow of the one true baptism that comes with the total cleansing of our sins through the Blood of Yahshua Messiah.

Therefore, since the reality of the New Covenant is here and believers in Yahshua go through the one true Baptism, which is the ultimate Mikvah, the ceremonial law has been superseded and fulfilled and a Spirit filled baptized believer

having the true Spirit of Yahweh indwelling in them, could not be ceremonially unclean by ritual uncleanness that was added to the Torah in the ceremonial law..

**Heb 9:1** Truly then, the First Covenant also had ordinances of service, and the earthly holy place.

*(The priests go into the first tabernacle through all, completing the services).*

**Heb 9:7** But into the second the high priest goes alone once in the year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and the ignorance's of the people;

**Heb 9:8** the Holy Spirit signifying by this that the way of the Holy of Holies has not yet been made manifest, the first tabernacle still having been standing;

**Heb 9:9** and it was a symbol, for that time, during which oblation and sacrifices were offered that could not make perfect the conscience of him who offered them:

**Heb 9:10** but only in food and drink, and various washings, and fleshly ordinances, until the time of reformation has been imposed.

**Heb 9:11** But Messiah having appeared as a High Priest of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation,

**Heb 9:12** nor through the blood of goats and of calves, but through His own blood, He entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, having obtained for us everlasting salvation.

**Heb 9:13** For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the sprinkling of ashes of a heifer on those having been defiled, sanctifies them to the purity of the flesh,

**Heb 9:14** by how much more the blood of Messiah who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to YAHWEH, will purify your conscience from dead works, to serve the living Elohim!

**Heb 9:15** And for this reason he became the Mediator of the New Covenant, that He might by his death be redemption, to them who had transgressed the first covenant; so that they, who are called to the eternal inheritance, might receive the promise.

**Heb 9:22** And almost all things are purified by blood according to the Torah; and apart from shedding of blood no remission occurs. (**Leviticus. 17:11**)

**Heb 9:23** Then it was needful for the patterns of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these; but the heavenly things themselves by better sacrifices than these.

**Heb 9:24** For Messiah did not enter into the Holy of Holies made by hands, which is a symbol of the true one, but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of YAHWEH on our behalf,

**Heb 9:25** not that He should often offer Himself even as the high priest enters into the Holy of Holies year by year with blood of others;

**Heb 9:26** otherwise He would have been obliged to have suffered many times from the foundation of the world. But now once for all, at the completion of the ages, He did offer Himself to abolish sin.

**COMMENT:** Verses 10-14 is speaking about the ceremonial law and the killing of the Red Heifer for the ashes to be used in the mikvah ceremonial washing. The problem with the ceremonial law in the First Covenant was that it could only remind them of their sins, but could not forgive the sin, or remove the guilt or penalty. Once a person has been baptized in the name of Yahshua and has had the penalty of their sins paid for by His shed blood, they could no longer be ceremonially unclean by simply coming near a dead body, or coming near a woman having her menstrual cycle. And verse 10 clearly states that the ceremonial law was only added "*until the time of reformation would come*", or the changing to the Melchizedek Priesthood.

They were only an added tool of the First Covenant to be used as a continual reminder of their defiled state, and we can see these things have been completed by the greater Melchizedek Priesthood.

However, on a spiritual level one could become ceremonial/Spiritually unclean if they went to an immoral place such as a bar, or were watching unclean movies, or reading false religious unclean material. The ceremonial law was a shadow to teach believers that as part of the very body of Messiah and sanctuary of Yahweh, we need to keep our lives physically sanctified by only eating clean foods, and spiritually sanctified by keeping our mind clean of any immorality. And since the Spirit of Yahweh is dwelling in a true disciple of Yahshua, then the disciple would need to keep that Spirit sanctified and set apart from all forms of physical and spiritual defilement.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 6:17** Because of this, "Come out from among them and be separated, **says YAHWEH, and do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you.**"

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 6:18** "And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says YAHWEH Almighty."

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, which you have

*from Elohim, and you are not of yourselves?*

**1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6:20** *You were bought with a price; **then glorify Elohim in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to Elohim.***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 7:1** *Then having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.***

If a believer is to glorify Yahweh with his body and Spirit, then it stands to reason that they should only eat food that is physically clean for their body (according to scripture), which is the sanctuary of Yahweh's Spirit, and also keep their Spirit clean by keeping their lives fully sanctified only to Yahweh and His Holiness.

### **Points to Remember**

- 1) **The food laws of clean and unclean were instituted at creation as part of Yahweh's judicial order on what food He created to human consumption and what food was not for consumption.**
- 2) **Yahshua did not come to do away with the Torah (*Matthew 5:17*) and therefore did not change the physical laws of clean and unclean.**
- 3) **Peter's vision was about calling people unclean and common and not about being given permission to eat unclean meat.**
- 4) **The ceremonial law was added to the Torah at Mount Sinai due to the sin of the Golden calf, and was only instituted for a time until the greater Melchizedek Ministry would be established.**

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*Congregation of YHWH Jerusalem, Po Box 832 Carteret NJ 07008  
[www.coyhwh.com](http://www.coyhwh.com)*