

QUESTION #16

Why do you follow the clean and unclean meat law when Peter was on the roof and was instructed to eat because everything God made is good?

Read Leviticus 11, the whole chapter. God clearly spells out what meats are to be eaten and which ones are not to be eaten. It is part of the Law of God.

If you research some of the animals which are commonly eaten today, such as Pig (pork), you will find that Pigs are garbage eaters and the meat from Pigs is known to cause cancer, however people eat it anyway. God says don't eat it. Snails and Shell Fish are garbage eaters and they cause people to become sick and there are many cases reported yearly where people died from eating them. God says don't eat them. This is a command from God for our own good.

You don't give me a scripture in your letter so I had to guess which one you are using. In this case it wasn't too hard to figure out because it's the one that most people go to, to say that all meat is good to eat. Read the following in context paying attention to my highlighted areas. Back in those days a Jewish person dare not be seen even speaking to a gentile. God is showing Peter that a Gentile should not be looked at as unclean and that it is okay to speak to them. Remember Gentiles are to be grafted in. This is about the grafting in process. Peter was in a trance, so we are talking about a vision from God here. After the trance, Peter is pretty clear on explaining what this vision was about. The vision had nothing to do with animals, but was to show him that Gentiles could now be grafted in, and become spiritual Jews. The vision is the underlined part.

- * Acts 10: 9. On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:
- * 10. And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, **he fell into a trance,**
- * 11. And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
- * 12. Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.
- * 13. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.
- * 14. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.
- * 15. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.
- * 16. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.
- * 17. Now while **Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean,** behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,
- * 18. And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.
- * 19. **While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.**
- * 20. **Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.**
- * 21. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?
- * 22. And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.
- * 23. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.
- * 24. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.
- * 25. And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.
- * 26. **But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.**
- * 27. And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.
- * 28. **And he (Peter) said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.**
- * 29. **Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?**
- * 30. And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

- * 31. **And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.**
- * 32. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, **shall speak unto thee.**
- * 33. **Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.**
- * 34. Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, **Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:**
- * 35. **But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**
- * 36. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: **(he is Lord of all:)**
- * 37. That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
- * 38. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
- * 39. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:
- * 40. Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;
- * 41. Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.
- * 42. **And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.**
- * 43. **To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**
- * 44. **While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.**
- * 45. **And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
- * 46. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
- * 47. Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
- * 48. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Cornelius and his family were gentiles, who as they repented were grafted in. These scriptures have absolutely nothing to do with abolishing the clean and unclean meat laws as commanded in Leviticus 11. We here as we understood this all gave up the eating of Pork Chops and Ham. You can buy very good beef bacon in most area of this country and if one needs ham, there is Turkey Ham, which is pretty close in texture. It's not that bad and when one observes the clean and unclean meat laws, one is far healthier by far in the long run.

Answered by: Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)