

Food Offered To Idols Part 1

“20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; 29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.” (Acts 15:20, 28-29 KJV)

“25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.” (Acts 21:25 KJV)

Today, we are the gentiles who believe in Christ, and the decision of the Apostles in the book of **Acts 15** is meant to us. We are instructed to abstain from four things:

1. Eating food offered to idols.
2. Eating blood.
3. Eating strangled animals.
4. Fornication.

“19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? 20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. 22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:19-22 KJV) Food sacrificed to idols is a common practice in many parts of the world. People indulge in pagan worship and revelry directed toward idols. We might be invited to partake of the food offered to demons.

In my experience in reaching people of different nations and in teaching several of the church congregations, one of the topics that I usually teach on, is food sacrificed to idols. Most of those I teach are enticed to accept the invitation of the non-believers just for the sake of wetting their appetite for free food. Many give the reason that it is expensive, strenuous, and time-consuming to prepare food at home and so invitations from people on feast days are always welcome. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to feed on a delectable choice of food which is otherwise unaffordable. * **Now the idea to get free and delicious food from these unholy sources is sinful and is against God. It is a fellowship with demons and in addition to that, the believers who go to such places are compromising with other false religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Baha'ism, Catholicism, and so on. * Those who repeatedly go along with such people are indirectly agreeing with their false religions and in this way show their solidarity with false gods. They do not stand by the truth of God's Word. Such kind of fellowships will lead the believers into worldliness, and they will receive wrong input from the non believers and ultimately end in taking wrong decisions and moving away from God. * This will certainly ignite God's anger because our God is a jealous God and He will punish us if we like harlots have fellowship with non-believers and gorge ourselves with their free food.**

Going to such fellowships will give also approval for the non believers to brag with their stand and their religion. As well as it might confuse others who are around us, and under our care (our families, children and disciples) to deviate from the truth and follow their practices.

The food sacrificed to idols includes food that comes from wrong sources. For example, food that is offered by a man to a woman to entice her and have a relationship with her is also food sacrificed to idols. There are women who put themselves in a relationship with men in order to receive food and support from them and that is similar in nature to food offered to idols.

Gifts, money, food, chocolates, flowers, and other things that are given to entice people to sin and do wrong are similar to food that is sacrificed to idols and we should refrain from them.

Food offered to idols it include also the worldly practices of the non believers who honored certain occasions and glorified certain days that is not observed in God's Word, like Halloween, Valentine, Christmas, New Year, Father's Day, Mother's Day, etc. These worldly practices that recently adopted by the churches today, are **“pollutions of idols” (Acts 15:20 KJV)** and need to be plug out from our midst to keep God's church pure and clean from parties and banquetings that arises in the church today due to worldliness, lust and boasting, *“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15-17 KJV)*

Now, this doesn't include those believers who acquaint themselves with non-believers in order to reach out to them with the Gospel. Their intention is honorable; they don't go seeking after food or worldly pleasures, and parties, but they are out in the mission field winning souls for God. *“27 If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. 28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof.” (1 Corinthians 10:27-28 KJV)* Jesus went to many sinners and homes of nonbelievers and His intention was not to eat, but to share and preach the Gospel as we can read in the Scriptures. *“1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.” (Luke 15:1-2 KJV)* *“9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. 10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?” (Matthew 9:9-11 KJV)* *“36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.” (Luke 7:36 KJV)* We need to move to people, not for the sake to eat or take advantage of them, but as Jesus did to preach the Gospel, declaring to them God's Word and His Kingdom.

But we need to be careful and not to allow what the non believers are doing enter into our homes and families and infects our children. As well as what the non believers are doing should not let it infect our churches and our new disciples.

When God would call us to reach certain people then He will speak to us to go to them, and as we move in obedience to God's Word, we might meet them at their tables and give them God's Word and the message of Salvation.

It is not that when we are invited to their banquets, and we want to eat, then we say 'let us go to preach the gospel', that is then not our purpose that is our excuse. The Israelites were trapped in such feasts and banqueting of the non believers, ***"1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods."*** (Numbers 25:1-2 KJV) Notice here that the Israelites committed immoralities with the non believers women after they attended their feast. They were enticed and tempted to sin because the borders and limits were taken away and they were made liable to sin. **This is the effect of going along and fellowship with non believers and banqueting with them. We, ourselves, our families, our children, our disciples and our children will be enticed with their ways, thoughts and doctrines for life. That what I called a reverse in the evangelism; instead that we would bring the gospel to them, we are infected and got influenced with their worldly style and sinful stand.**

Someone may say, 'I am strong and I can manage.' I am also strong as you are and I can manage, but our families, our children and our disciples might not be as me and you, and they might be easily pulled out from the correct way of life. Therefore, we need to heed the instruction of the Apostles to us so that neither we nor those under our care are misled from the right way of God.

God had already warned us from such intermingling and fellowshiping with non believers in the Old Testament as we can read here: ***"12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: 13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: 15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; 16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods."*** (Exodus 34:12-16 KJV) Notice, in verse 15 mentioned the following, ***"and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice."*** So here there is a call for invitation to go to eat and then to be trapped with plans of the evil that he is plotting against us and against those under our care. As we have read in verse 16, that the next progress of such feasts events is marrying with non believers. Therefore, we need to be careful and not to attend invitation that we are called to eat with non believers and share with them in their feasts. If we are eager to evangelize to them, then let us go to them in other days.

My Dear and Beloved: God told us the same in the New Testament as we can read here: ***"14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"***

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV)

Let us move out and away from the previous life that we lived before, ***"For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries."*** (1 Peter 4:3 KJV) Let us move out from fellowshiping and banqueting with the non believers, and let us not copy their style of life and what they are doing or celebrating. David said, ***"2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."*** (Psalm 23:2 KJV) **God is leading us beside a still water and away from troubles. Therefore, let us lead those under our care beside still water avoiding them the bad consequences of fellowshiping with non believers and learning from them the ways of this evil world that will ultimately take the abundant blessings of God from them.**

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the instruction that I receive from your Word about non eating food offered to idols. Lord thank you for all the Scriptures and the explanations. Lord thank you for all the correction, the rebuke and the admonition that we received today from your Word.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess your yoked with non believers and many worldly friends. Confess your compromises and flatteries and non willingness to stand with God. Confess your greed, love of money, taking advantage of people. Confess your lies, your lust and immoralities. Confess and renounce your acceptance to intermarry with non believers. Confess your wasting of time on the Media, TV, games and on news. Confess your lack of reading of God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess your non willingness to serve God and non willingness to suffer for him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to the teaching and to the principles that I received in this message from you. Lord I commit myself to be not yoked with non believers and not to go along with them to their feasts and eat from that food that offered to their idols. Lord I commit myself to cut the following _____ relationships with friends and non believers _____. Lord I commit to separate myself and those with me from fellowshiping and being yoked with non believers. Lord give me discernment and self-control to avoid intermingling with the ways of evil so that my life and my service to you will be fruitful and effective unto you. Lord here I am coming back to you, willing to serve you and doing your will.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to you and are willing to go along the teaching that we received in this message. Lord continue to restore them and

their families and children back to you. Lord heal them and those with them from all the bad effects and the consequences of their fellowships and relationships that they had with non believers. Lord provide all their needs and help them in their lives, solve their problems and aid them in all their troubles.

Lord we as your church, we commit ourselves to implement this teaching of non eating food offered to idols, and not to be yoked with non believers nor to approve to intermarry with them. Lord we pray that you continue to expose such sins in our midst and give us the wisdom how to handle the situation and deal with those who are involved in such sins. Lord we commit ourselves to go forward reaching new people and places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Food offered to idols Part 1. Acts 15:20. Acts 15:28-29. Acts 21:25. 1 Corinthians 10:19-22. 1 John 2:15-17. 1 Corinthians 10:27-28. Luke 15:1-2. Matthew 9:9-11. Numbers 25:1-2. Exodus 34:12-16. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. 1 Peter 4:3. Psalm 23:2.

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