

Diet restrictions, can we eat pork?

A question was raised by an argumentative statement that is “You can’t worship the one true God, I AM, and eat Pork.” However, I will share a different perspective from scripture.

First, understanding the argument here are several verses that give it weight:

1. Leviticus 11:2-3: Discusses land animals, stating that only those that have a split hoof completely divided and that chew the cud are clean. Examples of clean animals include cattle, sheep, and goats. Unclean animals include pigs (because they do not chew the cud) and camels (because they do not have a split hoof).
2. Leviticus 11:9-12: Concerns creatures in the water. Anything in the seas or rivers that has fins and scales is acceptable to eat. Everything else is detestable.
3. Leviticus 11:13-19: Lists birds that are considered unclean, like eagles, vultures, and the like. Interestingly, bats are included here, though they are mammals, not birds.
4. Leviticus 11:20-23: Talks about insects. All winged insects that walk on all fours are detestable, except for those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground, like locusts, katydids, crickets, and grasshoppers.
5. Leviticus 11:29-30: Specifies certain small land creatures like the weasel, mouse, and various types of lizards as unclean.
6. Leviticus 11:41-42: Generalizes that every creature that moves along the ground is detestable; it must not be eaten.

The purpose of these verses is set clearly as a set apart requirement of the law for the Israelites and not other nations. Leviticus 20:25-26 in the New American Standard Bible (1995 edition): 25 'You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. 26 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

Here's where some of those laws are not abolished but fulfilled as we are no longer set apart by practicing the LAW but by practicing GRACE. See Romans 6:14 and Galatians 3:24-25

Matthew 12:1-8 (also found in Mark 2:23-28 and Luke 6:1-5): 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath." 3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, 4 how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? 5 Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? 6 But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. 7 But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

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Something changed in the new covenant, and what we eat was already addressed in the book of Romans, see the following scriptures:

1. Romans 14:2 speaks directly to the issue: "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables." Here, Paul addresses the diversity in faith and conviction regarding diet among the believers in Rome.
2. Romans 14:21 further advises, "It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall." This verse emphasizes the importance of not causing others to stumble in their faith due to one's dietary choices.
3. The overarching theme in Romans 14 is one of liberty balanced with love. While Paul indicates that, in terms of faith, one is free to eat anything (all foods being clean), he stresses the importance of not letting this liberty become a stumbling block for others who might have weaker faith or different convictions.
4. The Kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking, as stated in Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." This suggests that dietary choices are secondary to spiritual health and communal harmony.

Specifically, as commanded in Romans 14:1-3 (NASB95 Update):

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.
2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

My conclusion is that eating Pork, and other meats, is acceptable as long as what you are doing is unto the Lord.