

you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; 19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated? "(Thus He declared all foods clean.) 20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. NASB

Of course Peter had the vision at the house of Simon concerning all the unclean animals. **"Rise, kill and eat Peter!"** Three times the vision was repeated by God for Peter. God's authoritative command was, **"what God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."**

Acts 10:9-16 - 9 And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 **and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.** 13 **And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!"** 14 **But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."** 15 **And again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."** 16 And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. NASB

Of course this whole scene happened as God was preparing Peter to preach the Gospel to a house of Gentiles whom He had chosen to regenerate and save and fill with the Holy Spirit, Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:23-48). Nevertheless, the idea that God had made all things clean was trumpeted forth in the vision by God. Could it be that God had now even cleansed the Gentiles, even though they violate all the **dietary laws**? Of course what was just a shadow in the dietary laws was no substance in the Gospel as God offers cleansing to all by grace through faith in Christ alone!

Paul also made this very clear. In fact, Paul went further to rebuke all forms of **"self-made religion"** which is made up of **"the commandments and teaching of men."** He taught that these had no power to change the heart being **"of no value against fleshly indulgence."**

Colossians 2:16-23 - 16 Therefore **let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day** — 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 **"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"** 22 **(which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?** 23 **These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.** NASB

Paul, elsewhere explained that what is important is one's own faith and conviction before God, and we are not pass judgment on one another about simply things like eating.

Romans 14:1-9 - 14 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 **One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.** 3 **Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.** 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, **and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.** 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. NASB

Paul very clearly states that nothing is **"unclean in itself,"** unless in your **conscience** one believes it to be **unclean**. What matters is people's faith before God and explains that out of love

we are to honor one another's convictions and be careful not to offend one another by violating one another's consciences. This he says is important because the **“kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

Romans 14:14-23 - 14 I know and am **convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.** 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. **Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.** 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for **the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then **let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.** **20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.** 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But **he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.** NASB

Much more could be said in regard to the dietary laws but let us here suffice to say that as a part of the Ceremonial Law, these were fulfilled in the Person and Work of Christ. Of course they have now been abrogated as we have clearly seen in the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. One may choose to keep them for reasons of good health or religious tradition, but certainly not by way of New Covenant obedience.

What about the Jewish Feasts?

Another part of the Ceremonial Law was how God prescribed to be worshipped in Israel by the commemorative **Feasts**. He commanded that they keep seven annual Feast celebrations to commemorate different aspects of their redemption and honor God as His holy people. These Feasts are to happen at a given time each year in order to commemorate some specific feature of God's provision for them. Because of the nature of the Law being filled with types and shadows, there is much **symbolism** to be seen in these Feasts. One interesting aspect to the Feasts is that the type is only specifically fulfilled in Christ's First Advent for 4 of the 7 Feasts, and 3 remain to have a fulfillment. Here is a brief overview of the seven commemorative Feasts.

Feast	When	Reference	Significance	Status
Passover	Nisan 14-21	Ex 12:2-20, Lev 23:5	Deliverance from Egypt/Slavery	Fulfilled/Christ our Passover
Unleavened Bread	Nisan 15-21	Lev 23:6-8	Deliverance from Egypt/to Holiness	Fulfilled/Christ-Communion
First Fruits	Nisan 16	Lev 23:9-14	The Lord provides bountifully	Fulfilled/Christ-Raised from dead
Weeks/Pentecost	Sivan 6/count 50	Ex 23:16, Lev 23:15-21	Gratitude for harvest	Fulfilled/Holy Spirit Church
Trumpets	Tishri 1	Lev 23:23-25, Num 29:1-6	Present Israel before the Lord	Future
Day of Atonement	Tishri 10	Lev 23:26-33	Atonement for Sin/National	Future
Booths or Tabernacles	Tishri 15-21	Lev 23:33-43	Desert wandering to Canaan's bounty	Future