

## FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

**Food Sacrificed to Idols** — The Bible emphatically states that Christians are NOT to eat things sacrificed to idols (Acts 15:20, 15:29, 21:25; Revelation 2:14, 2:20). It also states that those who eat foods sacrificed to idols are fellowshiping with DEMONS! (1 Corinthians 10:20-21)

**Acts 15:20** — ...abstain from things *polluted by idols*.

**Acts 15:29** — ...abstain from things *offered to idols*.

**Acts 21:25** — ...Gentiles [are to] ...keep themselves from things *offered to idols*.

**Rev 2:14** — But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, *to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality*.

**Rev 2:20** — Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and beguile My servants to *commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols*.

**1 Cor 8:10-12** — [Not only are we NOT to eat food sacrificed to idols, but we are not even to eat IN an idol's temple — where leftover meat which was not used in the sacrifices were often given away free afterwards. Why?] For if anyone sees you who have knowledge [that the food was NOT sacrificed to an idol] eating IN an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols [which is a sin to do—for he will falsely conclude that it must be okay to eat meat sacrificed to an idol—since that is what he will assume you are doing]. And because of your knowledge shall the weak

brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. [In other words: if you are just eating IN an idol's temple, a brother might see you and think you are eating food sacrificed to an idol and therefore he might think it is okay to eat food sacrificed to idols—and thus you will destroy your brother! So don't even eat IN an idol's temple—let alone eat food sacrificed to idols!].

**1 Cor 8:7, 13** — [Apparently some people *thought* that just about ALL meat given out in a temple or sold in the marketplace had been offered to idols, and therefore they never ate meat; for Paul concludes this chapter on eating food sacrificed to idols by stating:] Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**1 Cor 10:14, 16, 20-22** — Therefore, my beloved, *flee idolatry*. [Each year at the Passover/Lord's Supper] ...The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion [fellowship or sharing] of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? [In other words, each year when we partake of the wine and the bread during the Passover/Lord's Supper we are figuratively taking part in the blood and body of Christ and therefore fellowshiping with Christ. Likewise, when we eat of things sacrificed to idols, we are fellowshiping with demons for Paul goes on to show this parallel by stating:] ...But I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice [to idols] *they sacrifice to demons* and not to God, and I do NOT want you to have *fellowship with DEMONS*. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord [the wine during the Passover/Lord's Supper] and the *cup of demons* [by drinking liquids sacrificed to idols]; you cannot partake of the Lord's table [the bread during the Passover/Lord's Supper] and of the *table of demons* [by eating foods sacrificed to

idols]. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

**1 Cor 10:14-33** — [Many people totally misunderstand what Paul is saying in these particular verses—since as even Peter states—in 2 Peter 3: 16—that some of the things that Paul wrote are “hard to understand.” Therefore, I have taken the liberty here to rewrite some of the key verses contained in this section of Scriptures in my own words in order to get at the crux of what Paul is saying here. Paul starts off this section by telling the Corinthians to FLEE FROM IDOLATRY. That when we drink the wine and eat the bread at the Passover/Lord’s Supper we are fellowshiping with Christ. And likewise, that even though an idol (of and by itself) is nothing and the things offered to idols are also nothing, that nevertheless, when we partake of things offered to idols we are fellowshiping with DEMONS! In other words, when we partake of the bread and wine during the Passover/Lord’s Supper we are fellowshiping with Christ, and when we partake of the things offered to idols we are fellowshiping with DEMONS! Therefore, don’t do it. Don’t drink or eat things sacrificed to idols, but instead flee idolatry. And if we dare to do both (drink the cup of Jesus and the cup of demons — as well as the table of Jesus and the table of demons)—we are provoking Christ to jealousy.

Then Paul changes the theme somewhat starting in verse 23 and 24 by telling the Corinthians to seek after the wellbeing of others. He tells them that it is okay to eat whatever is sold in the meat market—just don’t ask any questions about the meat—whether it was offered to idols or not. And likewise—if an unbeliever invites you over their home for dinner—do not ask any questions about the meat—just eat it. But don’t eat it if someone TELLS YOU it was offered to idols (even if it wasn’t) for their sake and their conscience’

sake. For our whole goal is to do everything for the glory of God. Therefore do not offend others by eating it. But instead seek after their wellbeing, that they may be saved.]