

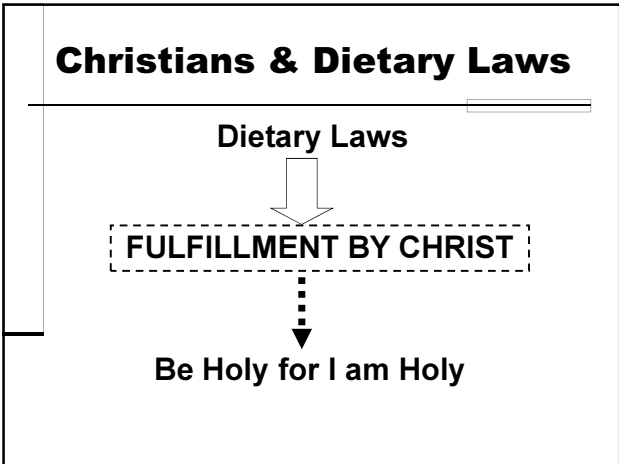
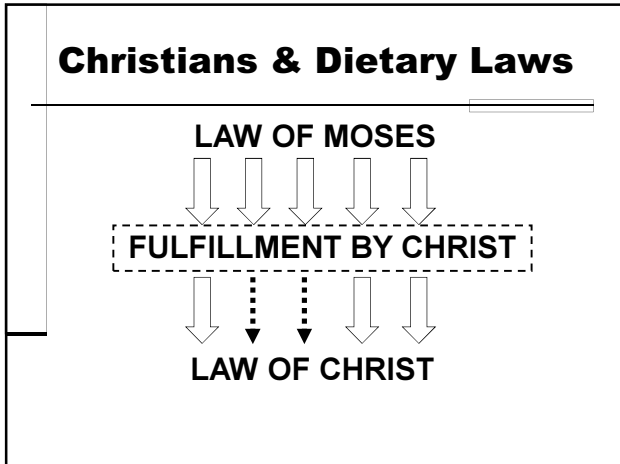
Gleanings from the Pentateuch

"To Eat or Not to Eat"
Dietary Laws and Holiness:
The New Covenant Application

Christians & Dietary Laws

Two Parts:

1. The abolishing of the outward form of the dietary laws
2. The abiding principle of holiness taught by the dietary laws



Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

“...whatever goes into the man from the outside cannot defile him;
 because it does not go into his heart but into his stomach and is eliminated (Thus He declared all foods clean).” – Mark 7:18-19

Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

“...and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures and birds of the air.
 And a voice came to him, ‘Arise, Peter, kill and eat!’
 But Peter said, ‘By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy or unclean.’
 And again a voice came to him a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’”
 – Acts 10:12-15

Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

“Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a new moon or a Sabbath day – things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”
– Colossians 2:16-17

Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

“...men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.
For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude.”
– 1 Timothy 4:3-4

Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

Q: *Why does the coming of Jesus make obsolete the dietary laws?*

1. Move from shadow to substance

- Cleanness symbolically reflected God's perfect order (uncleanness – disorder)
- By His death and exaltation, Jesus inaugurated the renewal of this perfect order

Christians & Dietary Laws

1. Outward Form Abolished

Q: *Why does the coming of Jesus make obsolete the dietary laws?*

2. Inclusion of the Gentiles/nations

- The distinction between Jew and Gentile has been removed under the New Covenant
- NEW ERA – God is saving Gentiles and making them full members of His covenant people

Christians & Dietary Laws

2. Abiding Principle: Holiness

➤ *“You shall be holy for I am holy”*

—————
The covenant people of God are required to imitate God's holiness in every area of life

Christians & Dietary Laws

2. Abiding Principle: Holiness

➤ *Two Aspects*

1. Conforming to the image of Christ in our actions, attitudes, thoughts, motives, desires and affections (Eph. 4:17-32)
2. Separating from unholiness influences and entanglements (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

Christians & Dietary Laws

Conclusion

➤ ***Tension – distinct yet not separate***

- ❑ For the sake of the gospel we must associate and have relationships with unbelievers
- ❑ For the sake of holiness we must guard our associations and influences