

Short Answer Series # 14

Can a Christian be a vegetarian?

'And God said, Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.' (Genesis 1v29.)

In the Garden of Eden, the Lord gave Adam fruits, and vegetables, (herbs), for food. That was what mankind ate until after the flood in Noah's day.

'Every moving thing that lives shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.' (Gen. 9v3.)

After the flood, the Lord gave mankind every animal for food, as He had given us fruits, vegetables, and herbs, in Eden.

'And He (Jesus) saith unto them, Are you so without understanding also? Do you not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without enters into the man, it cannot defile him; For it enters not into his heart, but into the belly, and goes out into the draught, purging all meats? 'And He said, 'That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adultery, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; All these things come from within, and defile the man.' (Matt 15v17-18.)

So, Jesus was telling us that anything we eat, passes through us and out, without affecting us for good or evil. (But meat commends us not to God: for neither, if we eat are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. 1 Cor. 8v8.) To eat meat, or meat of any type will not defile us.

'Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; ...commanding to abstain from meats, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving, of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.' (1 Tim. 4 v,1, 3,4,5.)

Again, Paul is telling us, that every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused.

If a Christian feels it is healthier for them to be a vegetarian, that's okay. But, if they tell other Christians it's wrong to eat meat, (any kind), that person has a wrong spirit, according to 1 Timothy. ('..giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils,.....commanding to abstain from meats..')

'For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.' Romans 14v17. Amen!