

## MEAT SACRIFICED TO IDOLS

1Cor. 10:25-28 *“Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience’ sake; FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORDS, and ALL it contains. If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience’ sake. But if anyone should say to you, **“This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat {it,} for the sake of the one who informed {you,} and for conscience’ sake;”***

In these verses Paul was explaining about meat offered up to idols and then sold in meat markets. The subject is food offered to idols, not unclean food. It was normal in those days for the heathens to offer clean animals as sacrifices in the pagan temples. The pagan priests would take out specific parts of the animals, (heart, blood, intestines, etc.) for their rituals and the rest of the animal would be sent to the local meat market for sale. Most of the meat in these markets was from animals offered up to idols. Paul was saying that because everything on earth was created by Yah for various purposes, even the clean meat offered up to idols was OK to eat because idols in reality could not defile clean meat.

It was a common practice in those days in most pagan homes to each morning offer up the days meat to whatever idol god they served. If a Believer came to the house during the day and ate of this meat it was no problem, unless it was a problem with the individual himself because the food was always prayed over before being eaten by the Believer Himself (1Tim. 4:4). The person eating the meat was not participating in any way with the ritual so it meant nothing to him. He was saying that if one felt personally defiled by eating such meat or others thought it was offending, they were better off not to eat it. In some cases non-Believers would think the Believer was a bad example because he was defiling his own temple of Adonai (his own body), even though it wasn't correct.

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 5/16)