**What About Eating Pork And Catfish**

**And Other OT "Unclean" Animals Today?**

It is true the OT taught the Israelites not to eat unclean animals such as pork and catfish:

* Pork Lev 11:7-8 And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.
* Catfish Lev 11:9-12 These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat. And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you: They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcases in abomination. Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.

But Heb 7:12 says there has been “a change … of the law.”

Just like when we change the oil in our car, and that means we completely replace the old oil with the new oil, when God’s law changed, that meant a complete replacement of the OT law with the NT law.

So the restrictions against pork and catfish would not be binding today unless we find the same teaching in the NT. Actually we find just the opposite. The NT specifically tells us the restriction against eating unclean animals has been abrogated …

Acts 10:9-16 9On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: 10And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 16This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

At that time, Peter was still observing the clean and unclean meats distinction. But God corrected Peter.

Rom 14:1-3,14-16 1Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. … 14I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

This chapter is all about unclean meats – how that it is not wrong in and of itself to eat unclean meat, but we should not eat them if it will cause someone to eat who still thinks it is wrong.

I Tim 4:1-4 1Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

So under New Testament law, “every creature” is good to eat; nothing is to be refused."

What other OT laws have also been done away with - on the same basis that passages like Heb 7:12 teach the law was changed?:

* **Circumcision** Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love., I Cor 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.
* **Levirate Marriage** Deut 25:5-6 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.
* **Sabbath** Col 2:14-17 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.
* **ALL Old Testament laws** have been abolished; we are under New Testament law exclusively – Eph 2:15 -Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

It seems that everyone understands the OT law is not still binding when it comes to eating pork and catfish, but most everybody seems to want to hang on to their favorite two or three OT laws. That is not consistent. You can’t have your cake and eat it too. Either all of the OT law has been done away or none of it has – Gal 5:3 – “For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.”

The very next verse teaches if we try to bind any OT law, we lose our salvation – Gal 5:4 - Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.