

2 Questions Christians must Deal With

Question #1 - Should Christians keep the Sabbath laws of the Old Testament?

Question #2 - Should Christians keep the dietary laws of the Old Testament?

What is our answer?

GOD HAS NOT COMMANDED DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AND SABBATH DAY OBSERVANCES FOR CHRISTIANS.

In Colossians 2, we find 2 reasons why God has not commanded dietary restrictions and Sabbath day observances.

Reason #1 - A Christian is never to be judged in questions of diet restrictions and day observances. **2:16**

[16] Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

(Observation #1) - Paul wrote these words immediately after writing that Jesus set aside the legal demands of the Law by nailing them to His cross (Colossians 2:14).

(Observation #2) - Paul mentioned diet restrictions and day observances at the beginning of a list of many other self-made

religious ideas that Christians are to pay no attention to (Colossians 2:16-23).

Objection #1 - How can Diet restrictions and Day observances be considered worthless “human precepts” if God is the designer of them?

God did design the diet restrictions and day observances, but the Law was nailed to the cross and set aside. *Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* The Law requirements have ended. To impose the law on a Christian is to say that Christ did not set aside the Law or end the law for everyone who believes in Him.

Objection #2 - The ceremonial requirements of the Law of Moses may have ended at the cross, but doesn't the moral law still stand? And if the moral law still stands then couldn't food laws still stand?

The Law of Moses is never divided in the Scriptures. The entire Law always exists in the Bible as one unit, not three, or more. James worded it this way: *for whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of it all (James 2:10).* Paul told the Galatians, for any man to accept circumcision means he is obligated to keep the whole law (Gal. 5:3). The Law is never divided in Scriptures. It stands as one unit.

Objection #3 - What if Paul is actually just encouraging the Christians in Colossae to not let anyone judge them for keeping diet restrictions and observing days?

- 1) It is very unlikely Paul was writing to Torah observant Christians. It is most likely that he is writing to uncircumcised Gentile Christians who had never kept Jewish laws.
- 2) Within the same context, Paul is going to go on to say, “Why would you submit yourself to regulations, ‘do not touch. Do not taste?’”

Now I want to ask: How might someone judge another person on these things? In what way could they be judged?

(Judgment Angle #1) - If you don't keep diet restrictions and day observances, then you are not spiritual/mature - you are disobeying God.

What did Paul say? Let no one judge you. That means maturity, spiritually in the Christian life, and obedience to God cannot ever be judged on the basis of diet and days.

(Judgment Angle #2) - If you don't keep diet restrictions and day observances, then you are not saved.

What is written in verse 16? Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of diet and days. No one can ever determine a person's salvation based on these things.

(Judgment Angle #3) - If you don't keep diet restrictions and day observances, then you are missing out on all God wants for you and expects of you.

- 1) Romans 14:17 - *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God.*
- 2) Paul says let no one judge you on this. Don't let anyone convince you that you are missing out on what God expects of you, because diet and days are not a way to measure if someone is living up to God's expectations in this age of the Church.
- 3) Paul said these regulations do not stop the indulgence of the flesh.

It doesn't matter from what angle it comes, the instruction given to Christians: let no one judge you on these matters.

Reason #2 - Diet restrictions and Day observances of the Old Testament are shadows of Christ and not the substance. **2:17**

[17] These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

#1 - Food (Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14).

#2 - Drink (Numbers 6).

#3 - Festivals (Leviticus 23).

#4 - New Moons (Number 28:11-15).

#5 - Sabbath. (Exodus 35:1-3)

Paul says these things are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Those things were designed as a shadow, but you don't need a shadow if you already have Christ. Why cling to a shadow if you now have the real thing?

Now that Christ has come and has accomplished His work for us, what does God expect of us? To focus on the substance, not the shadow. We are to focus on Christ, not diets and days.

