

## Kosher: Did God Change His Mind About What We Can Eat?

Leviticus 20:22-26; Acts 11:1-18

*We continue our sermon series “Holy Worship For a Holy God.” Why does our worship of this Holy God look so different than what we see in the Old Testament? Answer: Jesus Christ. But Jesus didn’t correct, modernize, or improve the Old Testament. Instead, He fulfilled it. And that changed worship significantly, as we worship our Holy God through Christ!*

Today’s Question: Why did the kosher dietary laws come and go? Did God change his mind?

[1] Leviticus 20 in three parts:

1. “No child sacrifice.” (20:1-9)
  
2. “No sexual immorality.” (20:10-21)
  
3. “The Gentiles near you do these evils! Therefore, you must be separate, be holy – and *eat kosher*.” (20:22-27)
  - Why kosher diet? **The big reason taught here is social separation.** This really did reduce the influence of paganism upon Jews to this day!

[2] Acts 11:1-18: How does God tell Peter that he should share the Gospel of Christ with a Gentile?

- Through a vision that *ends the kosher laws*, signaling the social separation.

- The Jewish Messiah has come for all people, and so the wall between Jews and Gentiles has been torn down! (See Ephesians 2:11-22.)

A lesson from this:

- Sometimes God’s laws can be confusing—but He knows what He’s doing, even if we don’t.

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. According to Leviticus 20:23-25, why were the kosher laws given to Israel?
2. When and why did they come to an end? (Acts 11:1-18)
3. Is there a commandment from God that seems confusing to you?
  - a. If so, have you thought about it a lot, trying to understand it? (This is actually a good sign if you have, but it can be frustrating if you still don’t understand it!)
  - b. Have you also prayed for understanding? Have you searched the Scriptures for an answer? Or did you give up somewhat quickly, and if so, what reason did you give yourself? (i.e. “No one knows the answer...”)
  - c. What was Abraham’s confusing experience in Genesis 22? How did he respond?