
Christians and Eating Blood

Question of concern:

Some have expressed concern about some biblical passages concerning the consumption of blood. They question eating a steak cooked rare or other possible underdone meat that would have a considerable amount of blood (while possibly watered down).

Scriptural Insight:

Acts 15:18-29

"Known to God from eternity are all His works. [19] Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, [20] but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. [21] For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

[22] Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. [23] They wrote this letter by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

[24] Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"--to whom we gave no such commandment-- [25] it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, [26] men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. [27] We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. [28] For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: [29] that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

Farewell."

Leviticus 17:10-15

'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. [11] For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon

the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' [12] Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.' [13] Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; [14] for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'

[15] "And every person who eats what died naturally or what was torn by beasts, whether he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.

Deuteronomy 12:16

Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

Genesis 9:1-5

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. [2] And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. [3] Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. [4] But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. [5] Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

Observations:

Why were the animals given to us? For food.

- It would be near impossible to eat meat without consuming some blood.
- So, we have to consider all of the matter:
 - Luke told us not to drink blood.
 - God gave us animals for food.
- Also, we understand that meat as we buy it in the store or after we have hunted it is generally drained of all excess blood. This is done in the field dressing process.

What is strangling? Killing an animal without shedding blood.

Thus, we see a difference in eating a rare steak and drinking a cup of pure blood, or eating blood pudding or blood sausage.

DEUTERONOMY 12:16
