

SACRED

GOD'S INVITATION TO
DRAW NEAR

To Eat or Not To Eat

Leviticus 11

The LORD spoke to Aaron: “You and your sons are not to drink wine or beer when you enter the tent of meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute throughout your generations. You must distinguish between the holy and the common, and the clean and the unclean,”

Leviticus 10:8–10 CSB

Two categories = Holy and Common

Two categories:

Holy

“And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.”

Isaiah 6:3 CSB

Two categories:

Holy = God, the holy one

Two categories:

Holy = God, the most holy one

Common = Everything else

Holy

a person, place, or thing that has
been brought into close proximity with
or dedicated to the service of
the God of Israel

**If something is common, it can exist
in one of two states of being:**

Clean

Unclean

**If something is common, it can exist
in one of two states of being:**

Clean = Default state unless stated otherwise

Unclean

“This is what you may eat from all that is in the water: You may eat everything in the water that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or streams. But these are to be abhorrent to you: everything in the seas or streams that does not have fins and scales among all the swarming things and other living creatures in the water.”

Leviticus 11:9–10 CSB

“All winged insects that walk on all fours are to be abhorrent to you. But you may eat these kinds of all the winged insects that walk on all fours: those that have jointed legs above their feet for hopping on the ground.”

Leviticus 11:20-21 CSB

Clean:

Sea animals: fish that have scales and fins

Sky animals: birds that have wings and two legs

Land animals: four legs that either hop, jump, or walk with hooves and chew the cud, insects that hop

Unclean:

Sea animals: aquatic species that do not have fins and scales

Sky animals: birds that dive and swim or eat other animals

Land animals: not four-legged and do not jump, hop, or walk, or have hooves and do not chew the cud, insects that don't hop

Israelites could not eat:

Bacon

Ham

Pork

Scallops

Shrimp

Lobster

Crab

Muscles

Clams

“These will make you unclean. Whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening, and whoever carries any of their carcasses is to wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening. All animals that have hooves but do not have a divided hoof and do not chew the cud are unclean for you. Whoever touches them becomes unclean.”

Leviticus 11:24-26 CSB

Why?

God cares about our holiness.

“For I am the LORD your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy. Do not defile yourselves by any swarming creature that crawls on the ground.”

Leviticus 11:44 CSB

“For I am the LORD your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy. Do not defile yourselves by any swarming creature that crawls on the ground.”

Leviticus 11:44 CSB

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 CSB

“All the creatures that swarm on the earth are abhorrent; they must not be eaten. Do not eat any of the creatures that swarm on the earth, anything that moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet, for they are abhorrent. Do not become contaminated by any creature that swarms; do not become unclean or defiled by them.”

Leviticus 11:41–43 CSB

Phrases from Leviticus 11 and Genesis 1:

“To separate”

Genesis 1:14, 18; Leviticus 11:47

“in the seas”

Genesis 1:22; Leviticus 11:9, 10

“to swarm” and “to creep”

Genesis 1:21; Leviticus 11:44, 46

“Living creature”

Genesis 1:20, 21, 24, 30; Leviticus 11:14, 15, 16, 22, 29

"Do not eat any of the creatures that swarm on the earth, anything that **moves on its belly** or walks on all fours or on many feet, for they are abhorrent."

Leviticus 11:42 CSB

"Do not eat any of the creatures that swarm on the earth, anything that **moves on its belly** or walks on all fours or on many feet, for they are abhorrent."

Leviticus 11:42 CSB

So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will **move on your belly** and eat dust all the days of your life."

Genesis 3:14 CSB

New Testament commands about food:

Do not eat or drink to excess.

1 Corinthians 5:11, Colossians 3:5-6

**Do not eat or drink all the time so we
can fast and pray.**

Matthew 6:16-18

**Do not eat or drink anything that causes
others distress or to stumble.**

Romans 14:15, 20-21

New Testament commands about food:

**Do not eat or drink while ignoring
someone who has no food.**

James 2:14-17

**Do not eat or drink while judging another
for their dietary choices.**

Romans 14:2-4

**What is on our plates reveals
what is in our hearts.**