

Acts 15:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

Analysis

The council requires abstention from 'meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication.' These prohibitions aren't salvific requirements but practical wisdom for Jewish-Gentile fellowship. Three relate to food laws (idolatry, blood, strangling), one to sexual morality. The letter promises 'ye shall do well,' not 'ye shall be saved' - distinguishing justification from sanctification.

Historical Context

These restrictions addressed major cultural barriers between Jews and Gentiles. Jews considered eating blood or idol meat abominable, while sexual immorality was common in pagan culture. These minimal concessions facilitated unity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can Christians exercise freedom while not causing others to stumble?
2. What's the difference between gospel essentials and matters of conscience?
3. How should love for others limit our Christian liberty?

Interlinear Text

ἀπέχεσθαι εἰδωλοθύτων καὶ αἵματος καὶ
That ye abstain from meats offered to idols and from blood and
G567 G1494 G2532 G129 G2532

πνικτοῦ καὶ πορνείας ἐξ ὧν διατηροῦντες
from things strangled and from fornication from which if ye keep
G4156 G2532 G4202 G1537 G3739 G1301

ἐστε ἐν πράξετε Ἐρέωσθε
yourselves well ye shall do Fare ye well
G1438 G2095 G4238 G4517

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:20 (Blood): But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

Acts 21:25 (Blood): As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

Revelation 2:20 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 2:14 (Parallel theme): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a

stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Leviticus 17:14 (Blood): For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

1 John 5:21 (Parallel theme): Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

1 Timothy 5:22 (Parallel theme): Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

2 Corinthians 11:9 (Parallel theme): And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.