

True Christianity faithfully keeps God's Laws:

By Thomas Harvey,
www.GodTheFather.us

John 5:46-47 “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”
- Jesus Christ

Christianity claims to follow Jesus Christ. To do so requires one to obey the words of the one they follow. Jesus taught his followers to believe in Moses' writings – this includes all applicable Laws of the Old Testament. What does this mean to us? Let's start with the basics:

Acts 15:20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.
- James of the Jerusalem Council

The New Testament lists these 4 basic Torah requirements for all converts to be following before being allowed to become Christians. This enactment from Acts 15 was made by the Jerusalem Council. This rule is still in effect today. This judgment was made because some members mistakenly thought that all males must be circumcised before officially becoming part of God's people. Basically, some people thought “you need to be circumcised to be saved”.

Acts 15:1 And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are **circumcised** according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” - sect of early Christian Pharisees

Acts 15:5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, **and** to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.” - sect of early Christian Pharisees

Please notice 2 things..

Acts 15:1 “..according to the custom of Moses,”

God’s Laws are not “customs”. **Customs** are man made traditions. This word “custom” lets us know these Christian Pharisees were still clinging to the Jewish “Oral Law” customs of Rabbinical Judaism. Jewish “Oral Law” is not from the Bible, it is man made traditions.

Acts 15:5 ..to circumcise them, **and** to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.”

The word “and” tells us the Pharisees are talking about 2 different things.. their circumcision **and** the law of Moses. Rabbinical Judaism has a requirement of being “circumcised **into**” their religion.

No place in the Bible does it say “you need to be circumcised to be saved”. That commandment is not in the Bible.

People today are STILL making these same stupid mistakes! Today many people say “you aren’t saved unless you are Baptized”. The bible does NOT say that. Here is what the Bible does say:

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not **believe** will be condemned. - Jesus Christ

God does not say “you must be **circumcised** to be saved”, or “you are condemned if you are not **baptized**”. Jesus said “He who does not **BELIEVE** will be condemned.” God condemns people that don’t TRUST Him. If you believe someone, then you trust them. If you trust someone, then you have faith in them. If you have faith in someone, then you act on what they tell you.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. - James of the Jerusalem Council

Your actions (including faithful obedience) are a sign of your faith.

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had.. - Paul speaking about Abraham

So let’s get back to “**the basics**” of being a Christian:

Acts 15:20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. - James of the Jerusalem Council

Abstain from:

- **Pollution of Idols**
- **Fornication**
- **Things strangled**
- **Blood**

Pollution of Idols:

The context we are placed in by Acts 15 is the ancient Greek world. These converts are coming out of a belief in many gods. This basic instruction is one of the 10 commandments – the first one. These new converts must not in any way pollute themselves in worship or participation in ceremonies that venerates false pagan gods.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: YEHOUAH is our God, YEHOUAH is One. - Moses

Mark 12:29 Jesus replied, "This is the most important: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord,' - Jesus Christ

PS. – Modern Festivals that violate this specific Bible instruction include Christmas, Easter, Valentines Day and Halloween.

Fornication:

The context of Acts 15 is again speaking of the Greek world at that time. These converts are coming out of a nation of sexual immorality. We could say the same thing today about new converts in the United States of America. These new converts needed this basic information. After all, they would be interacting with other members of God's body of believers. This would include attending services, studies and Bible Festivals with God's people. Fellowship does require a certain amount of proper behavior.

Leviticus 18 is where these instructions are found.

This includes sex prohibitions against -

- Anyone near of kin including:

Parents, sisters, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, daughter-in-laws, sister-in-laws, woman and daughter, woman and grand-daughter, woman and her sister.

- A woman during her monthly cycle
- Your neighbor's wife
- Homosexuality
- Bestiality

Things strangled

Being new members of God's body of believers includes fellow shipping with others of like mind. This fellowship includes Sabbath worship services, festivals and other gatherings. Almost all of these gatherings result in people eating together. If you are coming together for a group picnic or church potluck – you need to know the food there is OK to eat.

Eating meat from animals “strangled” is against the Bible teaching of proper food preparation. Animals must be properly bled:

Leviticus 17:13 *“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; for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. - Moses*

Blood

This instruction goes right along with “Things Strangles”. God forbids people from eating blood or blood products:

Leviticus 17:10 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. - Moses

These basics allow someone coming out of paganism to safely attend a church potluck meal. They will learn the rest as they hear God’s word read weekly. The more experienced members could easily tell the difference between a leg of lamb and a pig, but strangled meat is a little tougher to catch.

Acts 15:20-21 *but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.* - James of the Jerusalem Council

The last part of Acts 15 tells us new converts would be learning God’s instructions weekly – attending weekly Torah readings.

Psalms 103:17-18 But the mercy of YEHOUAH is forever on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to their children’s children, to those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember to do His commandments. - King David of Israel