

**SUSTAINING THE FRUIT
OF
THE SHARED LIFE**

**MAY 20, 2020
DURING THE GREAT TIME OUT
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31; COLOSSIANS 3:17**

I. WE ARE THE NEW PEOPLE FOR A NEW WORLD

- A. *Like Jesus, we are the incarnation of that new people who will occupy the new world with the Lord Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we are to demonstrate what a world with God at its center would be like.*
- B. *He is giving us scenarios and responsible actions we are to take in the world that is still unredeemed fully around a people who are ignorant of what that redemption is to show them the new way.*
 - 1. *In the question of food that has been sacrificed to idols*
 - a. *It has no real meaning to the believer in Christ since we have been freed in Christ about what is clean and unclean. We can eat everything that belongs to God as long as we are doing so with thanksgiving. This is what is meant in Col 3:17*
 - b. *But it does have real meaning to the unbeliever*
 - c. *So for the sake of and the conscience of the unbelieving one who is testing us to see if we will eat meat that is dedicated to his god, we do not eat it if he tells us that it is dedicated to an idol*
 - d. *But if we have been invited to dinner with an unbeliever we do not ask if it has been dedicated for we are not given to a self-righteous religion. We eat it for the glory of God.*
 - e. *All things belong to the One True God and all other usurpers are frauds; powerful but no match for the One who created them. They cannot “steal” what He has created for their ownership. They cannot own God’s creation. Not only did He create it but He has also redeemed it.*
 - 2. *So the conclusion we make about the matter of eating food as an example of any activity we do:*

- a. *Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords, the King of kings, the Sovereign first born over all creation, the One to whom all things owe their life and existence, through Him, in the next world the curse of food production will be gone and the earth will give its abundance fully and joyfully then, look at the abundance He has given you now; think, Jesus is the one who created this food; think of all the systems that had to support it getting to you that Jesus has provided that you may have it to eat; think of all the ; people who had to be involved in it to get it to you (Jesus created all of them and gave them employment that they too may enjoy their meal at the end of the day); if you can know that the people were unfairly paid for the work they do, pray for justice for them (if you see it often enough then you may consider not using it any more); think of whether the processes that brought it to you glorified and honored God (was it prepared and raised in a way that honored its intended purpose?*
- b. *Through Him, give thanks to the God the Father for the provision of the food; Since He is the one who created and provided it for you, it is only fitting to thank God for it; be grateful that this will be used for your bodies uplifting and building.*
- c. *Do it all for the glory of God; we eat it for its intended purpose*

C. What is the intended purpose of food?

1. *God prepared the whole earth with the idea of feeding you and the other creatures of the earth. He was meticulous making sure that each step in creation laid the foundation for the next: Light, air, water, soil, vegetation, on going focused light in the heavens for signs; and finally creatures with the mechanisms within them to eat the food and grow from it.*
2. *It was a vegetarian diet solely. There was enough of all that was needed for growth, reproduction and a healthy life in the vegetation. Consider this: we were taken from the soil, the same soil that the vegetation lives on and we will return to the soil; it is only fitting that the plants would be*

feeding the “dust” in us. This built our immune system. We are body (earth) and spirit (like God) so two things would build our immune system.

- 3. The Tree of Life was there, to replenish the aging DNA and refresh it; sort of an aging reset so that as long as one ate from it he would not die; See its use in the kingdom in Revelation 22*