

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Answering Your Questions (Transfusions, Wearing Pants, Pig Enzymes, Gelatin, and more)

119 Ministries receives thousands of emails a year. And as you would expect, many of those emails contain questions. Quite often, we repeatedly receive various forms of the same questions. Ideally, we would like to have a teaching available for every question we receive, however, some questions can be answered rather briefly, and do not require a regular length teaching to serve as a response. That is the purpose of this teaching series, to offer an easily available vehicle to answer your common questions.

In this teaching series, we will read a collection of hand-picked questions that we have received via email. Then, for whatever it is worth, we will offer a brief response, hopefully leading those interested in the right direction to find the answers that they are seeking.

So, let's get started. First question:

What about blood transfusions? Jehovah witnesses don't accept blood transfusions because the Bible says we shouldn't eat blood, so we should not have blood from another living thing in our body. Where do you guys stand on blood transfusions?

So basically, this question is asking whether the commandment against drinking blood could be compared to blood transfusions. Well, while we understand the reasoning behind the question, we would not see any issue with blood transfusions. Generally speaking, it appears that the context of the commandment against the drinking of blood relates to the pagan cultic rituals commonly found at the temples of false gods. For example, Acts 15:20 states that Gentiles should immediately refrain from four things when entering the faith. Those are:

- Idols
- Things strangled
- Sexual immortality
- Blood

These are all related to cultic temple activity, in which there would be idols, strangled sacrifices, drinking of blood, and temple prostitution.

Blood transfusions are of an entirely different purpose, which are intended to save lives. The Torah is all about preserving life. In the worst-case scenario, if one simply feels they must define blood transfusions the same as drinking of blood, it would then fall under the “Weightier Matter” principle, and if interested, one can find the teaching “[Weightier Matters](#)” on the 119 website. The “Weightier Matter” is always about preserving life, and blood transfusions most certainly fit that criteria. But, again, we do not see any biblical command prohibiting transfusions for the purpose of medical healing.

Hi. My son is an atheist and challenged me over the following questions, which I couldn't really answer. I'd be grateful for any help you may have on the following: Why does God kill (his word was murder) so many people in the OT? I explained that God is just, so it wasn't murder. But still, I couldn't explain why so many people were killed.

One thing that is hard for us humans to wrap our heads around is the fact that we were created with a purpose, and that purpose is to glorify YHWH. Anything that gets in the way of that purpose, and His master plan to accomplish that purpose, is then something that is contrary to YHWH. YHWH wants us to choose Him to serve in that purpose, and in doing so, He grants us eternal life. He created all things and He owns all life. While it is uncomfortable for us to admit, we do not own our own lives—our lives were given to us, but with the intent of a purpose of serving YHWH. And just as YHWH had every right to create us, He also retains every right to take it away if we are not serving that purpose of our existence.

An atheist will have a difficult time with that answer because an atheist believes his existence is through random chance, with no intended purpose, and that he owns his own life.

We go into much more detail in the teaching “[Does God Command Genocide?](#)”

Let's move on to the next question...

I only have one question, and that is in regard to your name. May I ask how it came to be "119"? Is there significance in that number? Thank you for your time and all that you do.

119 Ministries draws its name from Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. It's an amazing chapter. We encourage everyone to read it often. In it, King David speaks about how wonderful God's Law—that is, His Torah—truly is, and how much He loves it. Since a big focus of our ministry is reminding Christians of the beauty of God's Torah, we decided to base the name of our ministry on this psalm.

Let's move on to the next question...

Good morning! My husband and I are really trying to understand Deuteronomy 22:5, about the women wearing pants. Please, if you already did a study on it, it will be very helpful. Or, if you don't mind doing a study on it to help us get a better understanding, we would be thankful. Yah bless you and the teaching.

The answer is easier than one might expect. Deuteronomy 22:5 instructs men to not wear woman's clothing and for women to not wear man's clothing. When it comes to pants, it is very clear that some pants are designed and marketed to men, and some pants are designed and marketed to better fit women. There is also clothing that might be for neither men nor women specifically, such as a t-shirt. However, even t-shirts are often cut differently to better fit women or men. There is no such thing as all pants being for men.

Most men would not comfortably be able to fit into women's pants. The Bible does not define what is or is not men's clothing or what is or is not women's clothing. Society determines that. The point of God's instruction here is that males should not be visually confused as females, and females should not be visually confused as males. As long as men are dressing as men and women dressing as women, no confusion is occurring, then the intent of the Torah commandment is being satisfied.

Let's move on to the next question...

What's your take on pig enzymes and gelatin?

Okay, this is a great question, but first we need to back up and understand why it's being asked. This question is asked as it relates to Leviticus 11. According to Leviticus 11, pig is one of the animals that are not considered food, and we are instructed not to eat it.

So, then, the question becomes: are pig enzymes and pig-derived gelatin still considered pig, and therefore unclean for us to eat or consume?

When an animal is processed or broken down, people often ask at what point it matters that something is derived from pig.

For example, a pig also has calcium or magnesium. Eventually these minerals go back to the environment and feed plants that then feed us. If magnesium or calcium is derived from pig, does that make those minerals unclean forever? Not likely. That would be quite a stretch. We likely have molecules in us that, at one point, were part of something unclean. That could be true for a banana or a tomato.

So what about enzymes? Enzymes are a string of amino acids. They are catalysts for chemical reactions inside living things. Why is this even a concern? Because some cheese products contain enzymes derived from pigs, and other types of food additives may also include pig enzymes.

They did not have this problem or debate in the first century or in the time of Moses. Pig meat was pig meat. In that way, things were easier to understand.

At what point, though, is a pig no longer pig? Frustratingly, it is a difficult question to answer. Even Jewish orthodox rabbis, who were once rather definitive on this subject, are starting to admit that they do not really know. Enzymes break down so fast, and there are no longer really any molecular signatures such enzymes even derived from pig.

Some avoid such enzymes altogether. That is understandable. Some believe that such enzymes are no longer pig, and that position makes sense as well. When it comes down to it, it is rather difficult to definitively conclude that an enzyme still constitutes a pig.

Gelatin is a little harder to answer and is still debated. Some state that it is still pig, some state that it is not. We err on the side that it is, but admit that it might not be. It seems that it likely is still pig. It is ground up bone. The critics might say that it is so heavily processed that on a molecular level, it is not really pig anymore and that indeed may be true.

In the end, we really cannot say definitively one way or the other whether or not something is still consider pig and therefore unclean according to YHWH.

Let's move on to the next question...

Good morning. First, I want to thank you for your effort in spreading the real Gospel of Yeshua and the Torah and what it means to walk in Yeshua's ways. That being said, I have a question. When people ask me if I'm Christian, I'm having a hard time saying yes. The reason being that Christianity has drifted far from the original Church of Yeshua, and I find myself not wanting to be associated with mainstream Christianity. So I have prayed about this, and this morning I decided to ask you for your opinion. What would you suggest I give for an answer when asked that question?

This is a really good question and it really exposes the person asking, their heart, in trying to discern "what does God want us to do?" and also, "How do we interact with others in the faith that kinda differ from us?". When we first discover that the whole Bible, including the Torah, is applicable to us in the faith, we sometimes begin to distance ourselves from mainstream Christianity. In some ways, the keeping of the Sabbath and the feast days, observing the dietary instructions, or other commandments mainstream Christianity has forgotten, does denote a significant difference. On the flip side, mainstream Christianity is actually in agreement with us on most of the Torah.

When we are asked what "denomination" we are, or something similar, we normally state that we are Torah observant Christians to such an audience. That usually prompts questions, and then we go from there. To be a Christian is really just intended to mean you follow the Messiah.

By calling ourselves "Torah observant Christians", we hope that instead of burning bridges and disconnecting from others, we are not only highlighting how we agree on most things, but how we also differ. This offers a foundation and platform to entertain serious discussion, and perhaps help brothers and sisters in the Messiah understand that we should observe the whole Word of God as Yeshua intended.

If this series and presentation format interested you, there are many more questions we will be covering in the subsequent parts of this teaching series. As always, if you have questions for 119 Ministries, please use the Contact Us page offered on our website, <http://119ministries.com/contact-us>. And if you do contact us, thank you for your patience as our team works to respond.

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

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