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(unc HSE)

Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: I Corinthians 10:27

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some say this verse means that if you are invited to dinner and are served unclean meat such as pork, you should eat it without question to avoid offending your host.

III. True Explanation

- A. The context has nothing to do with clean or unclean meats, but with meat offered to idols (verses 19, 28). If you want to take this verse out of context, then if your host puts cyanide, razor blades or a bowl of acid in front of you, you should eat it, lest you offend him. This is, of course, ridiculous.
- B. You usually would not have to ask whether or not what you are eating is pork; you can usually discern that. The true meaning is that if the Christians to whom Paul was writing went to an unconverted person's house for a meal, they didn't have to ask him if the meat he served them had been offered to an idol. Idols are nothing to true Christians, and whether or not the meat had been offered to an idol is of no importance.
- C. However, if the host or someone else brought up the subject and told them the meat was offered in sacrifice to an idol (and did so in a way that led the hearers to believe the speaker thought the hearers should not eat it), they should refuse it -- not because it harmed them, but because of the conscience of the other person. This might cause the other person to think that idol worship was all right, or cause him to think they were hypocrites for claiming to be Christians and appearing to worship the idol by eating meat sacrificed to it (verse 28).
- D. The whole topic of discussion is whether or not to eat meats previously offered to idols, not clean and unclean meats.

