

Vegetarian Claims of Moral High Ground & Of Greater Spirituality

by David Lee Burris

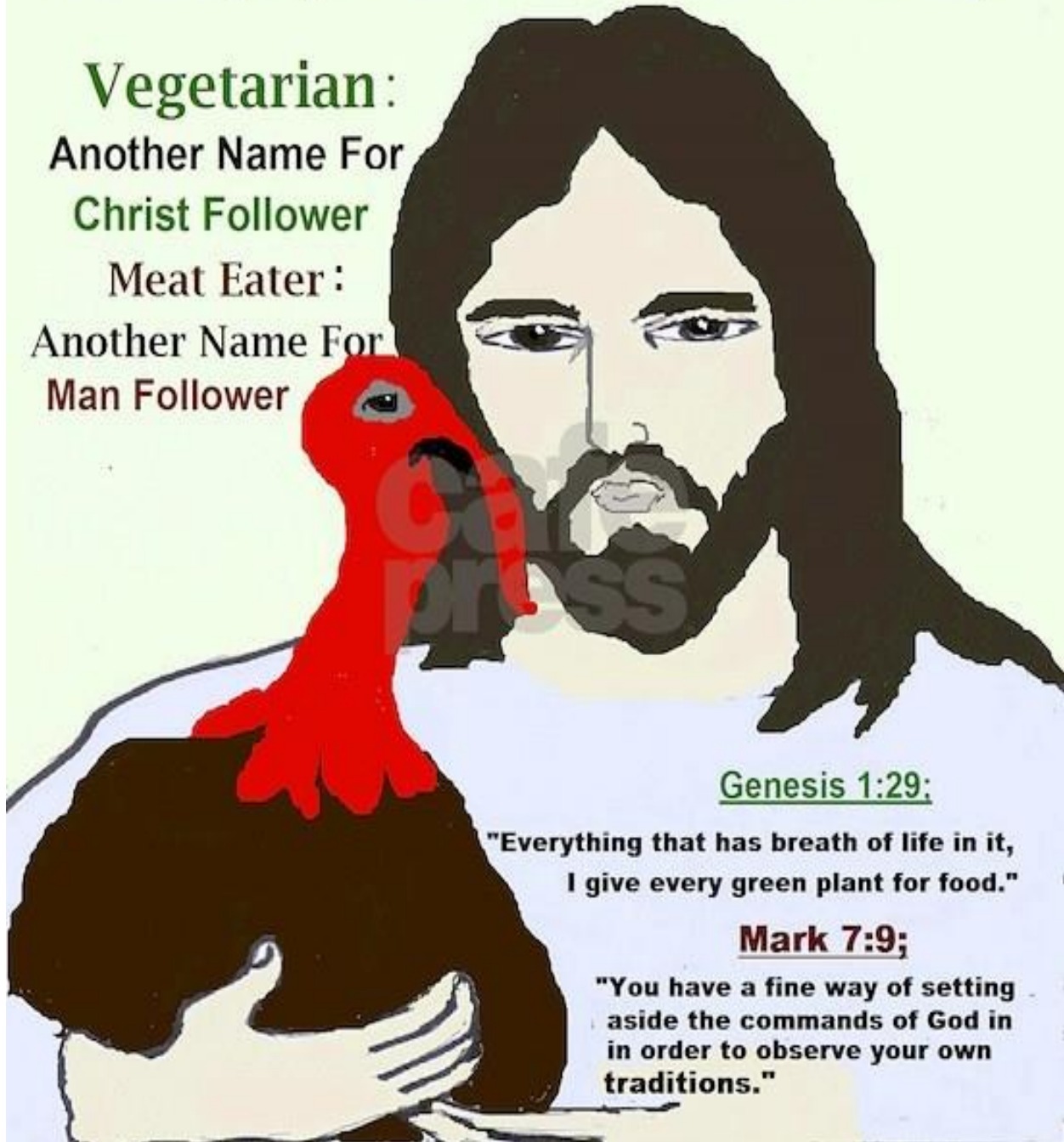
This Thanksgiving, Remember To Give Thanks To The Turkey!

Vegetarian:

Another Name For
Christ Follower

Meat Eater:

Another Name For
Man Follower

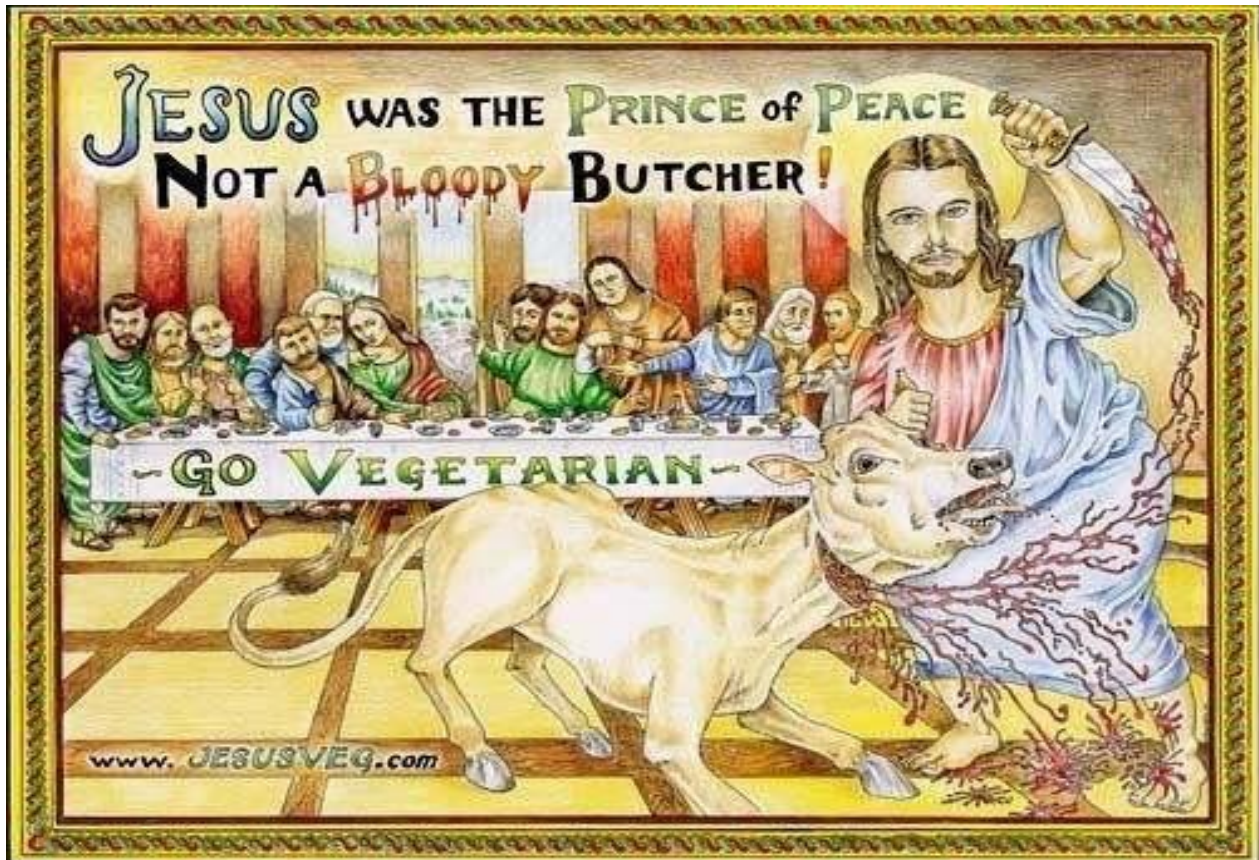


Genesis 1:29:

"Everything that has breath of life in it,
I give every green plant for food."

Mark 7:9;

"You have a fine way of setting
aside the commands of God in
in order to observe your own
traditions."



JESUS WAS A VEGETARIAN

Did you know:

- Jesus opposed animal sacrifice in the temple, which preceded the consumption of animals.
- Jesus counsels mercy and compassion, which are the opposites of torturing, killing, and eating God's creatures.
- The multiplication miracle did NOT include fish. The fish in the story are symbolic of Christians, the multiplication a sign of the burgeoning church.

- In the United States, more than 8 billion animals are killed every year for food. Every one of those animals has a capacity for pain and suffering, just as our own cats, dogs, and other companion animals do. In fact, just as we do.

JESUS WAS THE "GOOD SHEPHERD,"
NOT A BLOODY BUTCHER.

Show respect
for God's
creatures—
go vegetarian!

For free vegetarian recipes,
call 1-888-VEG-FOOD.



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510 • 757-622-PETA
Web site: www.peta-online.org

For more information on the vegetarianism of Jesus: www.jesus-online.com

compelling truth

Should a Christian be a vegetarian? Was Jesus Christ a vegetarian?

Genesis 1:29 says, "And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.'" At creation man was vegetarian. However, Genesis 9:3 records God telling Noah, "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything." Following the Flood, man was no longer vegetarian. Later, God instituted dietary restrictions, now known as kosher dietary laws.

Jesus was born in a Jewish society that would have followed a kosher diet. Such a diet includes the eating of meat. Though the Bible does not specifically state that Jesus ate lamb, we know that Jesus ate the Passover meal, which traditionally includes lamb (Exodus 12:8-14; Mark 14:12-25). The Bible tells us that Jesus provided fish to others to eat (Luke 9:10-17; Mark 8:1-8). If eating fish was wrong, Jesus likely would not have given it to the people. And, perhaps most specifically, Luke records Jesus eating fish after He was resurrected (Luke 24:41-43).

In the New Testament, God removed the kosher dietary restrictions (see Acts 11:1-11; Romans 14:2-6). For Christians, this means that there is no biblical mandate regarding what food can or cannot be eaten. That being said, there is also no mandate requiring Christians to eat all kinds of food. What a Christian eats is a matter of freedom. Paul writes in Romans, "One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him" (Romans 14:2-3). It is evident from this that vegetarianism is neither glorified nor looked down upon. **In short, Jesus was not a vegetarian!**

"Jesus Was a Vegetarian" by KYLE BUTT, M.Div.

DEITY OF CHRISTIN THE NEWS



Recently I read the statement, “Jesus was a vegetarian.” Supposedly, since Jesus did not eat meat, neither should we. There are several problems with this line of reasoning.

First, people often use “Jesus did x, y, or z” to demand that we should do the same things. But the truth is, just because Jesus Christ did or did not do something does not necessarily have any bearing on what we should or should not do. Jesus did many things that we are under no moral obligation to imitate. For instance, could we say, “Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem and so should you?” Or what about, “Jesus never rode in a car, and neither should we?” Would we be correct to demand, “Jesus never had electric lights, so cut off your power?” Or “Jesus never sent a text message, so stop texting?” You can quickly see the problem here. While it is the case that Jesus is the perfect example of how humans everywhere should live, it is not the case that every aspect of His life is something that we should copy. Paul explained it well in Philippians 2:5 when he said, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Notice it is the “mind” of Christ, or His attitude, that we are to imitate. That means that while Jesus was out seeking the lost He may have gone up on a mountain to preach, but we may need to use a microphone or a YouTube video. Or whereas Jesus walked from village to village, we may need to drive, fly, or ride a bus.

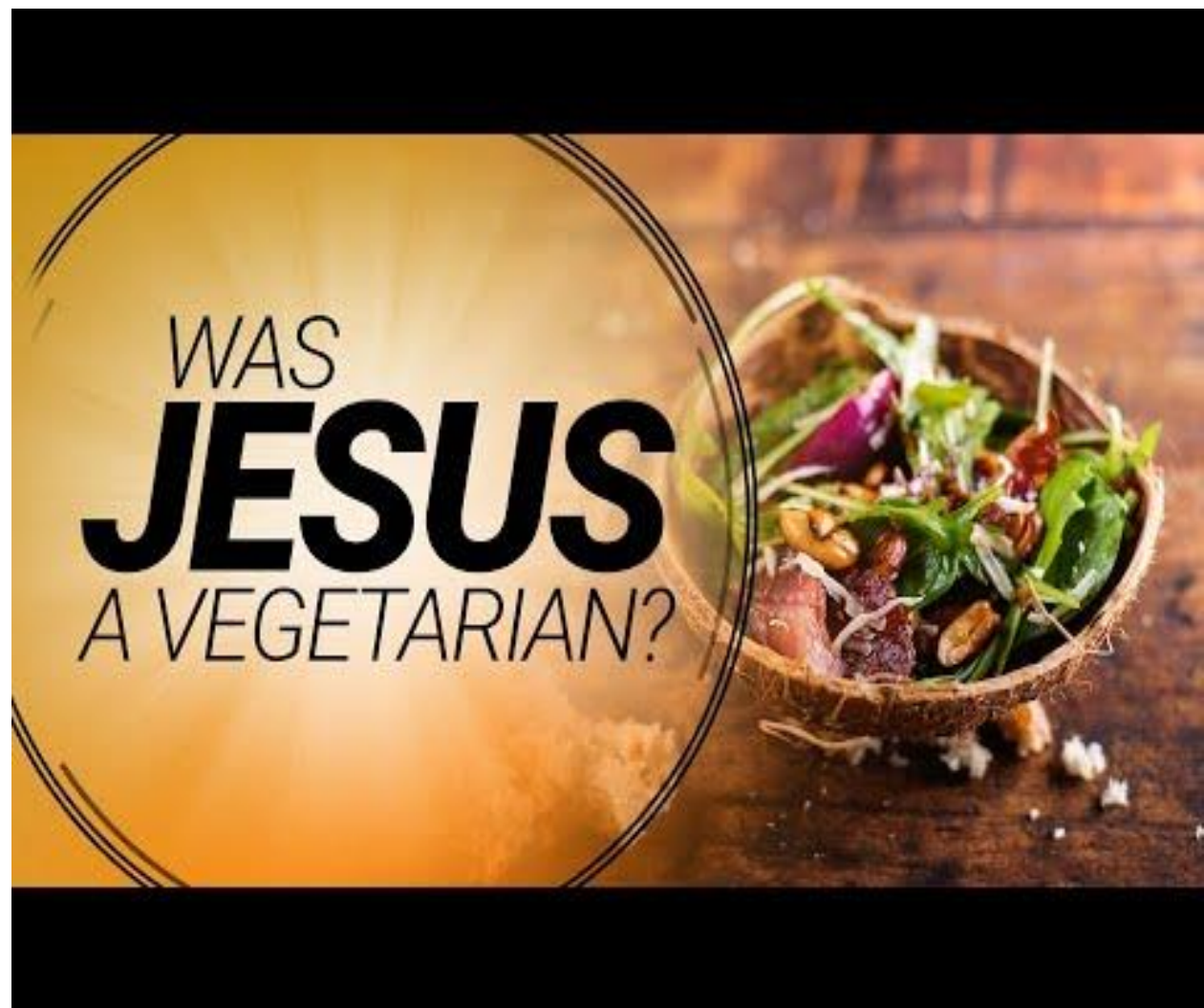
Just because Jesus Christ wore sandals that doesn't mean hiking boots are off limits for His followers.

The second reason the "Jesus was a vegetarian" mantra was so strange to me is because it is patently false. He certainly was not a vegetarian. He often ate meat. In Luke 24:42-43 the text says: "So they gave Him [Jesus] a piece of broiled fish and honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence." The passage could not be more straightforward about Jesus consuming fish. In addition, since Jesus was a Jew who faithfully followed the Old Law, He was commanded to eat the Passover Lamb every year. In Exodus 12:5-8, we read that all the Jews were to take a lamb, kill it on the 14th day of the first month and "eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs." In the New Testament, we see Jesus as arranging this very procedure with His apostles. Luke 22:7-8 states, "Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He [Jesus] sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.'" This was just one of the many animal sacrifices that Jewish people ate on a regular basis.

Third, the New Testament makes it clear that killing and eating animals is perfectly acceptable to God. In First Timothy 4:1-4 the Holy Spirit foretold some were going to depart from teaching truth and were going to command people to "abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. . .

... For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it's received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

Notice that in this passage, the sense in which God calls animals "good" is the fact that they are good for **food**. The idea that God, Jesus, or the Bible somehow morally obligate people to be vegetarians simply is incorrect.



Are Vegetarians Holier than Thou?

In recent years we have heard more and more about the so-called “animal rights” movement. This is but one of the by-products of the evolutionary philosophy which suggests that all of earth’s biological creatures share a common heritage.

By Wayne Jackson | [Christian Courier](#)

An organization known as PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) toured the country this past summer protesting the Oscar Mayer Wiener-mobile. They carried signs claiming: “Pigs Are Friends—Not Food.” [When someone starts attacking “hot dogs,” they are very close to getting on my nerves!] On a more serious note, my real complaint is this. The PETA group launched an ad campaign recently which made the claim: “Jesus Was a Vegetarian.”

Let’s put this matter into focus. I have no quarrel with anyone, who, for personal reasons, elects not to eat meat. That’s entirely a matter of their individual choice. It is altogether a different situation, however, when: (a) folks attempt to bind this notion upon others; and, (b) they attempt to buttress their opinions by misrepresenting the Son of God.

Let us reflect upon the following.

1. Jesus once warned his disciples of the dangers associated with a corrupt mind. In that connection he noted that it’s not what goes into a man which defiles him, but that which issues from his heart. Mark, one of the Gospel writers, commented that an incidental truth associated with the Lord’ s statement is this: **all meats are clean** (Mark 7:19).
2. Christ, on two occasions, fed vast multitudes with bread and fish (see Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-39). It is rather unreasonable to argue that Jesus provided fish for these thousands, and yet ate none of the fare himself. Moreover, if it is sinful to eat meat, would it be any **less** evil to provide such for others?

3. In Acts 10 the apostle Peter, by means of a heavenly vision, was instructed that God had “cleansed” meats—even those considered ceremonially unclean under the Mosaic regime (v. 15). Granted, the ultimate application had to do with the reception of the Gentiles; be that as it may, the symbolism would have served no purpose if those animals were to be viewed as prohibited still.
4. The apostle Paul stated that meat was created by God to be received with thanksgiving, and that to forbid such is an expression of apostasy (1 Timothy 4:1-5).

No animal ever should be tormented or to be needlessly hurt. Sometimes, though, pest animals must be destroyed (e.g., rats, roaches, etc.). It certainly is permissible to kill animals for both food and clothing (Genesis 3:21). It's not wrong to utilize animals, in a reasonable way, for medical research. Many health advances have been achieved in this fashion.

Animals were placed upon this planet by the Creator to be used by men — in a responsible manner, yes; but used nonetheless. There is no evidence that Jesus was a vegetarian, or that God views vegetarianism as a practice that's “holier” than eating meat.

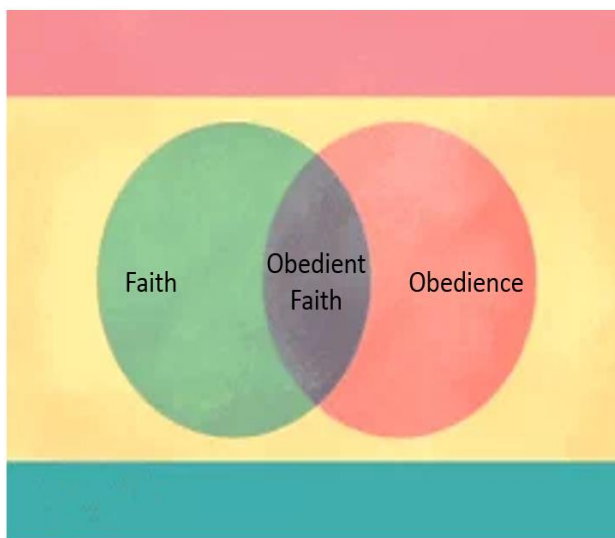
Finally, who imposed the rule which says we may **not** eat meat, but we **may** eat plants? Aren't both **living** organisms? Are pigs our friends, but turnips our enemies? Some people are so very desperate for a “cause” to provide their dreary lives with a sense of meaning, they will resort to anything.

Pass the mustard, please!

AT THE NEXUS OF GRACE & GLORY

Five Steps For Saving:

- HEARING:
- Romans 10: 17; Matthew 7: 24 - 27
- BELIEVING:
- Hebrews 11: 6; Mark 16: 15, 16
- REPENTING:
- Acts 2: 38; 17: 30; Luke 13: 3
- CONFESSING:
- Matthew 10: 32, 33; Acts 8: 36, 37
- BAPTISM:
- Romans 6: 3 – 5; Acts 8: 36 – 38



O That Will Be Glory

2. *Who that will be glory for me, e grace,*

I an Glory for me, glory for me; ce,

When by His grace I shall look on His face, e

That will be glory, be glory for me. me.

