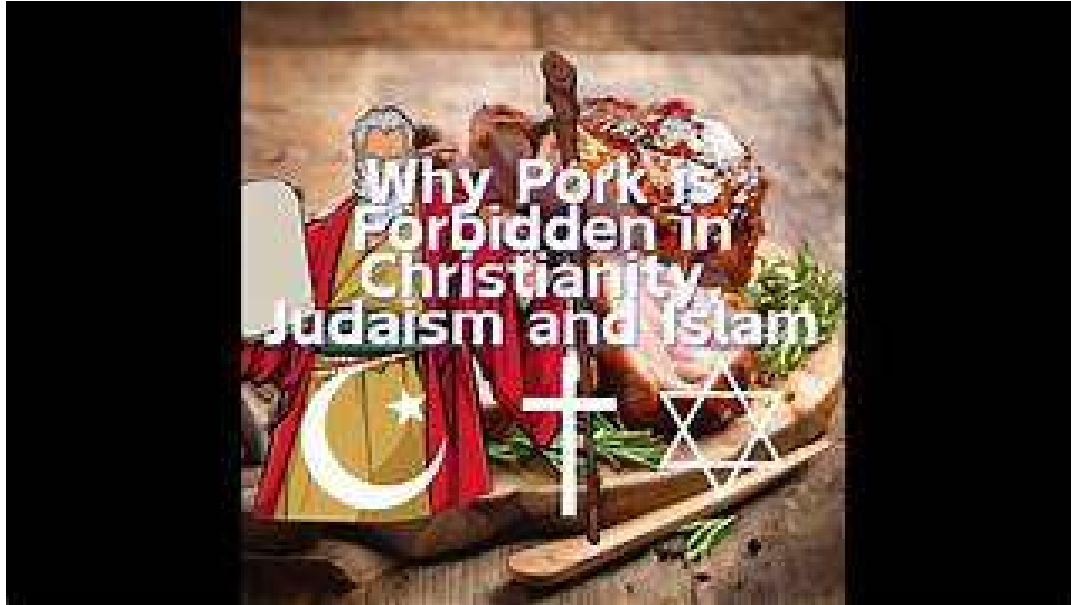


A Summary - Why Pork Is Forbidden in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam



All Praise is Due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds

Introduction

The prohibition of pork is one of the most well-known dietary laws in the world. It appears clearly in Judaism and Islam, and partially in early Christianity.

Although modern Christians generally do not follow it, the command originally comes from the same Abrahamic tradition.

Each religion approaches the rule differently as divine law, symbolic purity, or spiritual discipline.

Pork in Judaism

In Judaism, the ban on pork is direct and explicit in the Torah.

And the swine, though it divides the hoof and is cloven-footed, yet it does not chew the cud; it is unclean to you. You shall not eat their flesh, nor touch their carcasses.

Leviticus 11-7–8. Deuteronomy 14-8

Reasons:

1) Divine Command: The law Kashrut defines what is clean kosher and unclean. Jews follow it as part of the Covenant with God.

2) Spiritual Discipline: Avoiding forbidden foods symbolizes obedience, purity, and separation from idolatrous nations.

3) Health and Hygiene secondary reason: Historically, pigs were associated with disease and filth, but the main reason is religious, not medical.

To this day, observant Jews strictly avoid pork, following kosher dietary laws as a sign of faithfulness to God.

Pork in Christianity

The New Testament changed how early Christians viewed Jewish dietary laws.

Jesus (peace be upon him) emphasized inner purity over external rules.

It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth.

Matthew 15-11

Later, Paul the Apostle and other early Christian leaders taught that believers were no longer bound by Mosaic dietary restrictions.

Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.

Acts 10-15

As a result:

Most Christian traditions today allow pork, viewing the old dietary laws as part of the Jewish covenant, not the universal moral law.

However, some Eastern Christian sects (like Ethiopian Orthodox) still abstain from pork, preserving early biblical practices.

Pork in Islam

In Islam, the prohibition is clear and absolute.

The Qur'an explicitly forbids pork in four verses:

He has forbidden you only carrion, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah. Surah Al-Baqarah 2:173; also 5:3, 6:145, 16:115

Reasons in Islam.

1) Divine Law Sharia.

The command is from Allah; obedience itself is a form of worship.

2) Spiritual and Moral Purity:

Eating what Allah has prohibited harms the soul and disconnects believers from divine obedience.

3) Health Wisdom:

Pork can carry diseases like trichinosis and tapeworm, but these are wisdoms hikmah, not the main cause.

4) Universal Continuity:

Islam confirms previous revelations it restores the original purity of Abrahamic law.

Thus, for Muslims, pork is haram (forbidden) in all circumstances except life-threatening necessity.

Comparative Summary

Aspect	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Scriptural Source	Torah Leviticus, Deuteronomy	Gospels & Acts	Qur'an

Status of Pork	Forbidden/ unclean	Permitted for most	Forbidden/haram
Reason	Covenant purity, obedience	Inner purity replaces dietary law	Divine command, spiritual discipline
Symbolism	Separation from sin, idolatry	Spiritual freedom in Christ	Submission and obedience to Allah

Conclusion

The prohibition of pork connects Judaism and Islam as continuations of the Abrahamic covenant, emphasizing obedience, purity, and discipline.

Christianity, while born from the same tradition, reinterpreted the law through spiritual universality rather than physical restriction.

From an Islamic perspective, this command is not cultural but timeless divine guidance - a reminder that true faith includes obedience in what we eat, drink, think, and do.

In Judaism and Islam, abstaining from pork expresses submission to God.

In Christianity, purity is viewed as a matter of the heart rather than diet.

Submission to Allah

Scholars emphasize that the true essence of ḥarām lies not in reasoning but in submission to Islām itself.

Imam Ibn al Qayyim wrote in *Zad al Maad*:

Everything Allah forbade carries harm to body and soul.

Obedience purifies the heart and fills it with light, while disobedience darkens it.

Thus, refraining from pork is not merely a dietary choice - it is a spiritual act of obedience that nurtures faith and purity.

In Judaism, pork is forbidden as a sign of covenant and holiness.

In Christianity, it was later considered permissible under the doctrine of spiritual purity.

In Islam, it remains strictly forbidden, as a sign of obedience, purity, and continuation of Abrahamic law.

He makes lawful for them the good things and forbids for them the impure.
Qur'an, 7-157

For Muslims, abstaining from pork is not about culture or health, it is an act of worship, an expression of loyalty to Allah, and a reflection of spiritual cleanliness. Purity is not only of the body but of the heart; avoiding the forbidden is the truest form of devotion.