

~ABSTAIN (55)

[English, desist, refrain, withdraw, withhold, go without, give up, the opposite, is to indulge in]

- The only decree made by the **First Century** Christian congregation was to **abstain** from things polluted by idols, from fornication, from any animal that had been strangled or not properly bled and from using blood
- But to write them to **abstain** from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (**Acts of Apostles 15:20**)
- Paul **abstained** from boasting because he wanted his Christian brothers to appraise him by what they actually saw him doing.
- For if I ever do want to boast, I shall not be unreasonable, for I shall say the truth. But I **abstain**, in order, that no one should put to my credit more than what he sees I am or he hears from me. (**2 Corinthians 12:6**)
- To **abstain** from fornication is a Christian commandment and it means to **refrain** or **go without**.
- For this is what God wills, the sanctifying of you, that you **abstain** from fornication. (**1 Thessalonians 4:3**)
- Carrying that idea even further Paul counsels Christians to **abstain** from every form of wickedness.
- **Abstain** from every form of wickedness. (**1 Thessalonians 5:22**)
- Paul shows that in later days men would come forward commanding Christians to **abstain** from certain foods and from freely marrying. The Catholic church has made commandments binding on their Christian brothers not to eat meat on Fridays and not allowing their priests and nuns to marry. The Bible shows that these are demonic ideas and they have certainly led to many problems within their organization down through time.
- However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying

attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (**1 Timothy 4:1**)

- By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (**1 Timothy 4:2**)
- Forbidding to marry, commanding to **abstain** from foods which God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (**1 Timothy 4:3**)