

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Peter is Led to Cornelius

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 10:1–33**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

It can be easier to share the gospel with people who live far away, or who we've never met. Even Peter conveyed that "it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile" (v. 28). Yet the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, demonstrated that God had a plan to redeem the Gentiles. It also indicated that God fully accepted Gentiles into His kingdom without needing to conform to Jewish Law. As Christians in modern day, we may have our own ideas of who we think belongs in God's kingdom and who doesn't. Or perhaps we have become apathetic with sharing the gospel to our unbelieving neighbors or coworkers in our midst. However, **since God's plan of salvation is definite, believers must share the gospel faithfully—alienating no one.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Leviticus 11:1-2; Ephesians 2:12-22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Peter heard a voice telling him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." Peter quickly replied, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." Why did Peter respond this way? In what ways does Peter's response demonstrate that the gospel of Christ has expanded the Jewish notion of God's chosen people? *[The ceremonial aspects of the Jewish Law have ended, thus Gentiles have equal access to God's kingdom.]*
2. In verse 28, Peter declared, "God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean." In Ephesians, Paul writes, "God's purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace" (Eph. 2:15). How did the cross of Christ reconcile Jew and Gentile and put to death their hostility? In what ways does the modern church need to heed this message? In what ways do you need to heed this message?
3. In today's passage, God was preparing Cornelius's heart to hear a message from Peter. Moreover, God was preparing (and orchestrating) the supernatural events by which Peter was being led to Cornelius. In your particular stage of life, what may God be preparing for you (or your family) in the near future? What may God be preparing for our church in the near future? How do you see God preparing (and orchestrating) the circumstances?
4. Since God is behind every person who is saved, what is our role in God's work of salvation? Do you tend to seek to share the gospel, or wait until someone comes to you?
5. Oliver presented us with a direct challenge: "I can't share the gospel with ____ because of ____." If you were to fill in the blanks, how would you answer?