

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

June 22, 2025 | “Shedding Partiality” | Acts 10:17–48

God Unites People in Christ through:

1) _____ (10:17–23)

2) _____ (10:24–33)

3) _____ (10:34–43)

4) _____ (10:44–48)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 10:1–48. What did the sheet with all the unclean animals signify in Acts 10? Why did Peter have such difficulty following the Lord’s command to “Rise, kill, and eat?” When do you think Peter finally realized what God was showing him?

What are the components of the gospel that Peter recounts in Acts 10:34–43? What doctrinal truths are emphasized in that passage? When did you believe in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Did you follow that experience with water baptism? When were you baptized?

GET PERSONAL

Why didn’t God just tell Peter directly what he wanted him to learn from the sheet full of animals? Why do you think God allowed Peter to struggle (be “inwardly perplexed” in Acts 10:17) with the vision before he came to a place of understanding? What are some things that you’ve had to wrestle with for a period of time before achieving clarity? Is there something you’re currently struggling with and seeking God for understanding?

Describe Peter’s personality in the NT. How does Peter change over the years? In what ways was Peter teachable? In what ways did he have to learn things the hard way? Why is teachability such an important trait for Jesus’s disciples? Would you describe yourself as a teachable person? In what ways are you teachable? In what ways do you need to become more teachable?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How does Acts 10 show us how to break down ethnic and cultural barriers? Are there any lingering issues of partiality in your heart? Have you ever looked down on someone because of their nationality, race, gender, age, education, or social status? What are some practical ways we can banish partiality from our hearts as followers of Jesus Christ? What about within the church?

ADVANCED QUESTION

When did Cornelius and his household begin speaking in tongues? How was this similar/dissimilar from Acts 2 and the Pentecost event in Jerusalem? What was the purpose of these tongues? Was this practice normative in the early church? Should it be normative in the church today? For help with these questions, see the following article, “What Is Speaking in Tongues? Should You Do It? Bible Answers” by Ryan Lytton:

<https://www.logos.com/grow/nook-speaking-in-tongues/>

See also the following two TGC companion articles by Schreiner and Storms:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cessationist/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/continuationist/>