

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

June 29, 2025 | “*E Pluribus Unum*” | Acts 11:1–18

EXPOSITION

- 1) God’s plan of salvation defies _____ (11:1–3)
- 2) God’s plan of salvation defies _____ (11:4–16)
- 3) God’s plan of salvation defies _____ (11:17–18)

APPLICATION

Eight kinds of discrimination that the church needs to guard against:

- 1) _____ Discrimination
- 2) _____ Discrimination
- 3) _____ Discrimination
- 4) _____ Discrimination
- 5) _____ Discrimination
- 6) _____ Discrimination
- 7) _____ Discrimination
- 8) _____ Discrimination

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 11:1–18. What does *E Pluribus Unum* mean? How is this concept reflected in the church? How does the universal church demonstrate unity? How does the local church demonstrate unity? Does unity require uniformity?

According to Peter, what did the Jewish and Gentile believers share in common? Why were the Jewish believers compelled to glorify God in Acts 11:18?

In what ways can tradition inhibit or distract from God’s work of salvation? What are some unbiblical cultural expectations that we might place on others inside the church? In what ways can traditions be a good thing? When are they harmful? Why were the Jewish traditions harmful to the circumcision party in Acts 11? What advantages do we have over them from our vantage point in the twenty-first century?

GET PERSONAL

Review the list of eight kinds of discrimination that the church needs to guard against. Which of these do you think the church is particularly susceptible to? Which of these have you personally struggled with in the past? How has God helped you grow in that area?

What are some common ways that discrimination can take root in the human heart? How might it take root in a Christian’s heart? What has God done to eliminate discrimination in the church? What has he done to eliminate it in your heart?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How does this passage shape the way you view missions or evangelism in your community? Who are some people in your city who don’t look like you but desperately need to hear the gospel? What might you do to reach them? What might you do to befriend them first?

How did Peter patiently and persuasively explain the unity that Jewish and Gentile Christians have in Christ Jesus? How might you do something similarly with those who have a divisive bent?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Is there a difference between gospel ethics and man-centered legalism? If so, explain that difference. What’s the difference between godly discipline and ungodly ritualism? How do we avoid the trappings of legalism while striving to become more like Christ? For more on this, see the following series on the NT book of Galatians: www.vbvf.org/galatians