

**The Dividing Wall
has Been Broken
by Jesus**

Background Leading Up to Acts 10:24

- Jesus ascends to His throne. The Holy Spirit-led apostles & disciples are persecuted, yet the believers and the gospel spreads.
- Saul first becomes the early church's greatest enemy and then is transformed into a powerful part of God's Kingdom.
- Saul preaches in Damascus and travels to Jerusalem. The Jews plot to kill him in both places.
- Peter demonstrates Jesus' power over death in Joppa.
- Peter receives 3 visions helping him to understand the Gentile people should not be considered 'unclean'.

Acts 10:24-28 (NIV₂₀₁₁) ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself." ²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."

God alone is worthy of worship and any believer that receives worship is taking what is God's alone.

Being with the Gentiles meant risking being unclean, but Peter now realizes that Jesus' death and resurrection destroyed the dividing wall (Eph. 2:11-16).

Peter, unlike the so-called Popes after him, rejected worship or even this reverence.

Do you understand God's church as a global community?

Acts 10:29-35 (ESV) ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.” ³⁰ And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ ³³ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been

commanded by the Lord.” ³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Are you transforming into to God’s character with no partiality?

Acts 10:36-41 (NASB₁₉₉₅) ³⁶ "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)- ³⁷ **you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea**, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ " *You know of*

Jesus of Nazareth, how **God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit** and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. ⁴⁰ "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Do you believe in the finished work of Jesus?

Acts 10:42-48 (NKJV) ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." ⁴⁴ While

Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.** ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?" ⁴⁸ And **he commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Do you believe? Have you repented? Have you been baptized?