

Acts 10:1-8 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” 7 When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, 8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

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Acts 10:9 approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance

Acts 10:11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” 14 But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.”

YES, NO, MAYBE SO

Often when God wants a “YES”, my preference will want a “NO” or “MAYBE SO”

The core of Christianity is OBEDIENCE, not PREFERENCE.

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Acts 10:6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." **7** When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, **8** and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. **10** And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance **11** and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

Acts 10:12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. **13** And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." **14** But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." **15** And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." **16** This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

Leviticus 11:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, **2** "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth.

3 Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat.

Leviticus 11:5 And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. **6** And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. **7** And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you.

Leviticus 11:10 But anything in the seas or the rivers that does not have fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you.

Mark 7:14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” **17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

Mark 7:18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, **19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) **20** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, **22** coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. **23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

It's not about what you put in your STOMACH, it's about what comes out of your HEART

The reason why PETER INITIALLY said “NO” to GOD was because he was saying “YES” to HIS CULTURE

Your Culture is important, God's Kingdom is just more important.

1 Peter 2:9 “we are a holy nation”

Acts 10:25 They said, “Cornelius sent us to hear what you have to say.” So, Peter invited them and they stayed the night and then made their way to Caesarea to Cornelius's house. As they arrived Cornelius was there with his relatives and close friends. And here is what happened. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

Acts 10:26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” **27** And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. **28** And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. **29** So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”

Acts 10:34 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.”

Acts 10:47 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Luke 12:51 Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other!

Luke 12:52 From now on families will be split apart three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against. Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

And when it comes to UNITY in His KINGDOM the answer should always be YES

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity.

Psalm 133:2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore

HEALING FOR THE WORLD FLOWS DOWN FROM THE SPIRIT OF UNITY FROM GODS PEOPLE.