

Unified in Christ

Acts 10

God's plan for worship ...

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev 7:9-10 ESV)

Problem: We're all so different.



Ages, stages, culture, tradition, politics, preference, etc ...
all cause division.

Main Idea: God saves all kinds of people,
so we work to reach all kinds of people.

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. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Act 10:34-43 ESV)

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Unified in Christ

- 1. God calls all kinds (vv. 1-8; 33-35).**
- 2. Embrace change for Jesus (vv. 10-16).**
- 3. Work where God is working (vv. 19-44).**

1. God calls all kinds (vv. 1-8; 33-35).

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 ...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.

God calls all kinds of people.

- i. **God is no respecter of persons (vv. 3-4; 34).**
- ii. **God desires all to be saved (2Pt 3:8-9; 1Jn 2:2; Jn 3:16).**

God's plan has always been for all people.

"To him the prophets bear witness..." (v. 43)

- i. Gen 12:2-3**
- ii. Exodus 19:5-6**
- iii. Isiah 42:6**
- iv. Jonah, Ruth, Rahab ...**
- v. 1 Peter 2:9**
- vi. Revelation 7**

Cornelius was a seeker (v. 2).

God was calling him.

- i. A devout man (v. 2a).**
- ii. Feared God with all his household (v. 2b)**
- iii. Gave alms generously (v. 2c).**
- iv. Prayed continually to God (v. 2d).**

God still calls people.

- i. Is God calling you this morning?**
- ii. Pray that God would call someone.**
- iii. Look for seekers and share the gospel!**

2. Embrace change (vv. 10-16; 23).

¹⁰ And [Peter] 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.

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." ... ²⁸ but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

Embrace change

- i. God's Word trumps our opinions (vv. 14; 28).**
- ii. God's Word challenges our beliefs/traditions.**
- iii. Let God's Word foster change in your life.**

Jesus unifies us through our:

- i. Cultural differences (Rev 7).**
- ii. Tradition differences (1Ti 5).**
- iii. Preference differences (Rom 14).**

Mature Christian:

- i. Take the lead in compromise (Rom 14).**
- ii. Teach one another why Jesus comes first (Col 3:16).**

3. Work where God is working (vv. 19-44).

¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.” ²¹ And Peter went down ... ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends ... [Peter said] “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.” ³⁰ And Cornelius said ... “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, ...⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

Work where God is working.

- i. The mission comes from God (Acts 1:8; 10:19, 28).**
- ii. My understanding is not required (vv. 28-29).**
- iii. We strive to reach all people (vv. 34-35).**

You can be on mission with God.

- i. Don't wait for a dream.**
- ii. Remember the mission (Acts 1:8; Mt 28:19-20).**
- iii. Contextualize the message (1Co 9:19-23).**

Today, will you open your heart to hear
God and work where he is working?