

A Church Without Walls

Read: Acts 10:1-48

Main Idea: The church is called to be a welcoming space that breaks down walls of division, actively pursuing unity and love among all believers, reflecting the heart of God for all humanity.

Key Verses: “So Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’” **(Acts 10:34-35, ESV)**

Key Principles:

- God’s grace reaches beyond ethnic and cultural boundaries, drawing God-fearers like Cornelius into His redemptive plan through divine initiative.
- The Holy Spirit’s guidance confronts deeply ingrained prejudices, challenging believers to embrace God’s impartiality in salvation.
- Obedience to God’s direction often requires stepping into uncomfortable situations to foster unity across divides.
- The gospel proclamation centers on Christ’s death and resurrection, inviting all people to faith.
- Confronting prejudice is an ongoing process, as even apostles like Peter needed repeated conviction to align with God’s heart for the nations.
- Building bridges in the church reflects God’s ultimate mission of redemption, empowering believers to witness across social and ethnic lines.

Discussion:

1. How does this story show God’s plan to reach those outside traditional boundaries? Share a time when you’ve seen God draw someone unexpected to faith.
2. In what ways have cultural or personal prejudices hindered your relationships with other believers, and how can Peter’s vision help you confront them?
3. What challenges might arise when obeying God’s call to connect with people different from you? How does the Holy Spirit equip us for this?
4. How does Peter’s interaction with Cornelius model building bridges across divides? Discuss practical steps your group can take to foster unity in your church.
5. Why is the gospel message essential for tearing down walls, and how does it emphasize Christ’s work over human distinctions?
6. How does the Spirit’s descent affirm God’s acceptance of all believers? Share how this truth motivates you to pursue inclusive community.

Prayer:

- Pray for openness to God’s plan to confront prejudices and build unity amid diversity.
- Pray for:
 - Courage to proclaim the gospel to all people, reflecting God’s impartial love.
 - That your members will experience the Spirit’s conviction and empowerment.
 - Boldness to tear down walls and share Christ’s unifying hope with others.

A Church Without Walls
Acts 10:1-48

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| I. | <u>Acknowledge God's grace.</u> | 10:1-8 |
| 1. | God <u>hears</u> those that <u>seek</u> Him. | 10:1-4 |
| 2. | God <u>blesses</u> those that <u>obey</u> Him. | 10:5-8 |
| II. | <u>Confront your prejudices.</u> | 10:9-23 |
| 1. | God's <u>Word</u> will <u>challenge</u> you. | 10:9-16 |
| 2. | Our <u>world</u> will <u>test</u> you. | 10:17-23 |
| III. | <u>Tear down walls.</u> | 10:24-33 |
| 1. | Be <u>open</u> to God's <u>direction</u> . | 10:24-27 |
| 2. | Build <u>bridges</u> to all <u>people</u> . | 10:28-33 |
| IV. | <u>Proclaim God's salvation.</u> | 10:34-48 |
| 1. | You were sent with <u>one purpose</u> . | 10:34-43 |
| 2. | You were sent to <u>all people</u> . | 10:44-48 |

NEXT WEEK:
An Impartial Judge
Revelation 20:11-15