



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

THE MINISTRY OF PETER – PART 2

ACTS 11

Chapter 10: the salvation of Cornelius; the beginning of the Gentile church. Now . . .

THE CHURCH BEGINS TO GROW

- Jewish tradition said that a Gentile had to “*become a Jew*” in order to be accepted; but now Jews and Gentiles were united in the church through faith in Jesus Christ. **GAL. 3:26-28**

GROWING PAINS v. 1-3

Peter no sooner returned to Jerusalem than he was met by the legalistic wing of the church of Judea.

- *“They that were of the circumcision”* who rebuked him for fellowshiping with Gentiles and eating with them. Spiritual pride is an ugly thing.
- As is often the case, the critics criticized first and gathered their information later.
- At Cornelius’ conversion, the believers were shocked that Peter had eaten with Gentiles. But after they heard the whole story, they praised God. **ACTS 11:18**

SOME LESSONS FROM PETER'S EXPERIENCES v. 4-18

Here, Peter repeated the events in Joppa from **CH. 10** in great detail—*step by step*. God's defense against His critics is to simply tell the story as it happened.

1. GOD GIVES CAREFUL COMMUNICATION.
2. LISTEN TO THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD.
3. GOD KNOWS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL EVENTS AND CALLS THINGS CORRECTLY.
4. THERE ARE NO FAVORITES WITH GOD.
5. WE SHOULD BE CELEBRATING FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

THE GENTILE CHURCH v. 19-30

IN THESE FINAL VERSES, WE SEE THREE THINGS:

- 1. THE GENESIS OF THE GENTILE CHURCH
v. 19-21**
- 2. THE GROWTH OF THE GENTILE CHURCH
v. 22-28**
- 3. THE GENEROSITY OF THE GENTILE CHURCH
v. 29-30**

**This passage also shows us six characteristics
of a USABLE Christian or Church.**

*The Six Characteristics of a USABLE Church in **Chapter 11***

1. **U**nstained by our Culture **v. 19-20, 22, 26**
2. **S**tretched to our Limits **v. 19; 12:1-3**
3. **A**dhering to the Savior **v. 21, 23, 26**
4. **B**old in our Witness **v. 19-21, 24**
5. **L**iberal in our Giving **v. 22, 24, 27-30**
6. **E**quipped in the Scriptures **v. 23, 26**