

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

OPEN MINDEDNESS



**“PEOPLE ARE VERY OPEN-MINDED ABOUT NEW
THINGS - AS LONG AS THEY’RE EXACTLY LIKE
THE OLD ONES.”**

CHARLES KETTERING

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IMPARTIALITY

- WE ARE PART OF AN IMPARTIAL CHURCH
- WE ARE SAVED BY AN IMPARTIAL GOSPEL
- WE ARE CALLED TO BE AN IMPARTIAL PEOPLE
- WE ARE CHALLENGED TO LOVE WITH AN IMPARTIAL LOVE
 - ^{NAS} **JOHN 15:12** "THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

UNLOCKING IMPARTIALITY

- OPEN MINDEDNESS IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS IMPARTIALITY
 - *OPEN-MINDED*
 - 1. HAVING OR SHOWING A MIND RECEPTIVE TO NEW IDEAS OR ARGUMENTS.
 - 2. UNPREJUDICED; UNBIGOTED; IMPARTIAL.

REPORTING TO THE JERUSALEM CHURCH

1. A CLOSED MINDED CHURCH 11:1-3
2. PETER'S RESPONSE 11:4-17
3. AN OPEN MINDED CHURCH 11:18

1. A CLOSED MINDED CHURCH 11:1-3

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:1** THE APOSTLES AND THE BROTHERS THROUGHOUT JUDEA HEARD THAT THE GENTILES ALSO HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD. ² SO WHEN PETER WENT UP TO JERUSALEM, THE CIRCUMCISED BELIEVERS CRITICIZED HIM ³ AND SAID, "YOU WENT INTO THE HOUSE OF UNCIRCUMCISED MEN AND ATE WITH THEM."

OPPOSING THE SPIRIT

- *WHAT THE SPIRIT FORBADE PETER TO DO TOWARD THE GENTILES, NAMELY "DEBATE/MAKE DISTINCTIONS/DOUBT," (10:20), THESE FELLOW JEWS ARE NOW DOING TOWARD HIM!*
 - LUKE JOHNSON
- ^{NAS} **ACTS 10:20** "BUT ARISE, GO DOWNSTAIRS, AND ACCOMPANY THEM WITHOUT MISGIVINGS; FOR I HAVE SENT THEM MYSELF."
- ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:2** SO WHEN PETER WENT UP TO JERUSALEM, THE CIRCUMCISED BELIEVERS CRITICIZED HIM

THEIR PROBLEM

- PUTTING GOD IN A BOX OF THEIR OWN CREATION
- LIMITING GOD AND OTHERS TO THEIR OWN CLOSED MINDED TRADITIONS AND IDEAS

THEIR PROBLEM'S SOURCE

- IGNORING GOD'S WORD AND LIVING ACCORDING TO HUMAN PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES
 - THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT POINTED TO THE INCLUSION OF GENTILES IN GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- ^{NIV} **GENESIS 17:4** "AS FOR ME, THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH YOU: YOU WILL BE THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. ⁵ NO LONGER WILL YOU BE CALLED ABRAM; YOUR NAME WILL BE ABRAHAM, FOR I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS."
- ^{NAS} **GENESIS 22:17** INDEED I WILL GREATLY BLESS YOU, AND I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY YOUR SEED AS THE STARS OF THE HEAVENS, AND AS THE SAND WHICH IS ON THE SEASHORE; AND YOUR SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF THEIR ENEMIES. ¹⁸ "AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED, BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY VOICE."

THE PSALMS

- ^{NAS} **PSALM 22:27** ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH WILL REMEMBER AND TURN TO THE LORD, AND ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE NATIONS WILL WORSHIP BEFORE THEE. ²⁸ FOR THE KINGDOM IS THE LORD'S, AND HE RULES OVER THE NATIONS.
- ^{NIV} **PSALM 86:9** ALL THE NATIONS YOU HAVE MADE WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, O LORD; THEY WILL BRING GLORY TO YOUR NAME.

THE PROPHETS

- ^{ESV} **ISAIAH 2:2** IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LATTER DAYS THAT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AS THE HIGHEST OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND SHALL BE LIFTED UP ABOVE THE HILLS; AND ALL THE NATIONS SHALL FLOW TO IT,
- ^{ESV} **ISAIAH 49:6** HE SAYS: "IT IS TOO LIGHT A THING THAT YOU SHOULD BE MY SERVANT TO RAISE UP THE TRIBES OF JACOB AND TO BRING BACK THE PRESERVED OF ISRAEL; I WILL MAKE YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS, THAT MY SALVATION MAY REACH TO THE END OF THE EARTH."

- ^{ESV} **JEREMIAH 3:17** AT THAT TIME JERUSALEM SHALL BE CALLED THE THRONE OF THE LORD, AND ALL NATIONS SHALL GATHER TO IT, TO THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN JERUSALEM, AND THEY SHALL NO MORE STUBBORNLY FOLLOW THEIR OWN EVIL HEART.
- ^{ESV} **ZECHARIAH 2:11** AND MANY NATIONS SHALL JOIN THEMSELVES TO THE LORD IN THAT DAY, AND SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. AND I WILL DWELL IN YOUR MIDST, AND YOU SHALL KNOW THAT THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS SENT ME TO YOU.

WORD'S OF JESUS

- ^{ESV} **JOHN 10:16** AND I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD. I MUST BRING THEM ALSO, AND THEY WILL LISTEN TO MY VOICE. SO THERE WILL BE ONE FLOCK, ONE SHEPHERD.

THE IRONY

- ^{NIV} **MARK 7:7** THEY WORSHIP ME IN VAIN; THEIR TEACHINGS ARE BUT RULES TAUGHT BY MEN.' ⁸ YOU HAVE LET GO OF THE COMMANDS OF GOD AND ARE HOLDING ON TO THE TRADITIONS OF MEN." ⁹ AND HE SAID TO THEM: "YOU HAVE A FINE WAY OF SETTING ASIDE THE COMMANDS OF GOD IN ORDER TO OBSERVE YOUR OWN TRADITIONS!

2. PETER'S RESPONSE 11:4-17

1. RECOUNTS VISION AT JOPPA 11:4-10
2. REPORT'S CORNELIUS'S VISION 11:11-14
3. RECOUNTS SECOND PENTECOST 11:15-16
4. CONCLUDES WITH A QUESTION 11:17

CENTERED ON THE WORD

1. ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:7** THEN I HEARD A VOICE TELLING ME, 'GET UP, PETER. KILL AND EAT.' ⁸ ...⁹ "THE VOICE SPOKE FROM HEAVEN A SECOND TIME, 'DO NOT CALL ANYTHING IMPURE THAT GOD HAS MADE CLEAN.' ¹⁰ THIS HAPPENED THREE TIMES ...
2. ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:12** THE SPIRIT TOLD ME TO HAVE NO HESITATION ABOUT GOING WITH THEM ...
3. ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:16** THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT THE LORD HAD SAID: 'JOHN BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.'

THE QUESTION

- ^{NIV} **ACTS 11:17** SO IF GOD GAVE THEM THE SAME GIFT AS HE GAVE US, WHO BELIEVED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO WAS I TO THINK THAT I COULD OPPOSE GOD?"

3. AN OPEN MINDED CHURCH 11:18

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 11:18** AND WHEN THEY HEARD THIS, THEY QUIETED DOWN, AND GLORIFIED GOD, SAYING, "WELL THEN, GOD HAS GRANTED TO THE GENTILES ALSO THE REPENTANCE *THAT LEADS TO LIFE.*"



CONCLUSIONS

IDENTIFYING CLOSED MINDEDNESS

- IN OUR VIEWS OF OTHERS
 - WHO GOD CAN/CAN'T OR IS/ISN'T WORKING IN
 - GENTILES, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, RAHAB, SAUL, ETC.
 - THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS
 - ^{NIV} **LUKE 15:1** NOW THE TAX COLLECTORS AND "SINNERS" WERE ALL GATHERING AROUND TO HEAR HIM.
 - ^{NIV} **LUKE 19:7** ALL THE PEOPLE SAW THIS AND BEGAN TO MUTTER, "HE HAS GONE TO BE THE GUEST OF A 'SINNER.'"

IDENTIFYING CLOSED MINDEDNESS

- IN OUR MINISTRY
 - POLICY, TRADITION
- IN GOD'S WORKING IN OUR OWN LIVES
 - ARE WE DIRECTING GOD OR BEING DIRECTED BY HIM?

FIGHTING CLOSED MINDEDNESS

- LET GOD OPEN OUR MINDS
 - ^{NAS} **ROMANS 12:2** AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.
 - ^{NAS} **EPHESIANS 4:23...** BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND
 - ^{NIV} **COLOSSIANS 3:10** ...PUT ON THE NEW SELF, WHICH IS BEING RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE IN THE IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR.

FIGHTING CLOSED MINDEDNESS

- EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

- ^{NIV} **ISAIAH 55:8** "FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS," DECLARES THE LORD. ⁹ "AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS."
- ^{NIV} **ROMANS 11:33** OH, THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS PATHS BEYOND TRACING OUT! ³⁴ "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BEEN HIS COUNSELOR?"

FIGHTING CLOSED MINDEDNESS

- RELY ON GOD'S LEADING

- ^{NIV} **PROVERBS 3:5** TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; ⁶ IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.
- ^{NIV} **ISAIAH 30:21** WHETHER YOU TURN TO THE RIGHT OR TO THE LEFT, YOUR EARS WILL HEAR A VOICE BEHIND YOU, SAYING, "THIS IS THE WAY; WALK IN IT."
- ^{NIV} **JEREMIAH 10:23** I KNOW, O LORD, THAT A MAN'S LIFE IS NOT HIS OWN; IT IS NOT FOR MAN TO DIRECT HIS STEPS.