

The Conversion of Peter - Acts 10

How good do you have to be in order to be good enough to please God?

Peter is the leader of the Church and if the gospel is to ever gain traction among the Gentiles, Peter must be converted to the gospel. You are ambassadors for Christ. If the gospel is to ever gain traction in America, you need to be converted to the gospel. You are either lost or saved. Your measure of goodness is a nonissue because Jesus was good enough to die for your sins. People who are lost need to be saved. People who are saved need to go after the lost.

Goodness is a nonissue when it comes to the gospel.

Acts 10 is a great example of narrative literature. The entire chapter of 48 verses covers one story. This much space in Scripture speaks of the importance of the event. Let's simplify the event:

- There are two major players – Peter and Cornelius
- They both have visions which connect them with each other
- Cornelius is a Gentile and Peter is a Jewish-Christian
- Gentiles and Jews don't mix and therefore

How can Cornelius HEAR the gospel and RESPOND to the gospel if he can't get close enough to Christians (Jewish-Christians) to listen to the gospel?

Through a series of events, visions, people ... Cornelius and Peter are connected together and Peter proclaims the gospel to Cornelius who responds and is saved. This is a door that opens new ministry for the early Church. Gentiles can be saved! Gentiles can join the Church!

NOTICE: The layout of Acts.

Acts 9 – Saul the Pharisee encounters Jesus
Acts 10 – Peter the Apostle encounters a Gentile

Everything that Saul believed, thought and felt toward *Christians* was wrong.
Everything that Peter believed, thought and felt toward *Gentiles* was wrong.
Peter doesn't need to be destroyed like Saul, but he does need to be converted to the gospel.

Acts 9 is the conversion of Paul.
Acts 10 is the conversion of Peter.

This is one of the toughest challenges the early Church encountered. Will they let those people into the fellowship? Will they call those people brothers and sisters? Will they pray with them? Will they disciple them? Will they love them?

Are the Gentiles good enough to become Christians?

Home Group Discussion Questions:

A great way to begin your conversation is to address the question: *What stood out to you as we read that passage or as you listened to that sermon on Sunday?*

1. Have you ever witnessed a situation where it was us and them?
(Maybe not in the Church but somewhere)
2. Who do you identify with more – Paul and his struggle to accept Jesus or Peter and his struggle to accept Gentiles?
3. Are you comfortable with people who are different and very different than you?
4. What did you think of the story about Rosaria Butterfield? It was two years before she attended her Pastor-Friend's Church. What do you think was happening during those two years? Could you do that with someone whose values you did not share?
5. Why do you think Pastor Karl referred to this as the conversion of Peter?
What about you – is there an attitude within you that still needs to “convert” to the gospel?