



## Tell People the Truth

**Date: February 1, 2026**

**Text: Acts 10:9-16**

**Statement:** Let me show you how honesty builds things that will last!

**Series Summary:**

- 1. Tell People the Truth**
2. Don't Reject the Truth
3. More About the Truth
4. Tell The Truth About Your Future

**Series Big Idea:**

- You cannot build something that lasts if truth is avoided, delayed, or selectively applied—even when telling the truth costs you influence, comfort, or position.

**Side Note:**

I love our country, and I believe in its future. But loving our country also means telling the truth about our history. America's story is filled with moments when we made courageous, unifying choices—and moments when we missed opportunities to unite and instead chose delay, denial, or division.

- In 1776, when our nation was founded, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed freedom, yet slavery was left unresolved and embedded into the nation's future conflict.
- In 1865, slavery was abolished with the 13th Amendment—but freedom did not translate into equality, and Jim Crow laws soon followed, formalizing segregation for nearly a century.
- In 1920, women gained the right to vote through the 19th Amendment—but that victory did not extend equally to all women, especially women of color, many of whom were still blocked by discriminatory laws.
- In the 1930s, the United States was slow to confront the rising threat of Adolf Hitler and Nazism, delaying decisive action while warning signs were already visible.
- In the 1950s and 1960s, during the Civil Rights Movement, progress finally came—but only after years of resistance, violence, and refusal to listen to voices calling for justice.

- And today, we face new challenges—including immigration—where once again, we risk being late to draw clear, fair, and humane boundaries because truth is difficult and politically costly.

**Summary:** Our history shows this pattern clearly: When truth is delayed, division grows. When truth is faced, healing begins. Loving a nation does not mean denying its failures – it means having the courage to learn from them.

## I. Peter Confronts a Blindspot Truth (Acts 10:9-16)

- 9 About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.
- 11 He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds.
- 13 Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”14 “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”15 The voice spoke to him a second time, **“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”**<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. (Acts 10: 9-16, NIV)

### **A. Peter was raised in a culture that taught him:**

- Separation equals holiness.
- Difference equals danger.
- Association equals contamination.

**Note:** Culture trains us long before Scripture corrects us.

### **B. His Peer Group Reinforced His Bias**

- They believed the same things.
- They practiced the same separations.
- They reinforced the same conclusion.

**Note: Two Observations:**

1. When everyone around you agrees, you stop asking questions.
2. *Echo chambers silence truth faster than opposition ever could.*

### C. His Theology Seemed to Support His Conclusions (Leviticus 20:24–26)

“I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from the nations... You must therefore **make a distinction between the clean and the unclean.**” (NIV)

### D. His Encounter with Cornelius Challenged His Conclusions (Acts 10:34–35)

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (NIV)

#### Closing: Four Questions to Consider

- How truthful is your family?
- Who is never invited into your circle? (**No Cornelius or Gentiles**)
- Have your religious or political views separated you from other believers?
- How much do people need to be like you to be loved by you?

#### Next Time: Don't Reject the Truth