

## **Be Distinct - Diversity**

Sermon by Pastor Trevor

### **Introduction/ Icebreaker:**

Describe your personal experience with diversity among your group of friends from childhood until the present.

### **Bible Passage:**

Acts 2:1-4, 10:10-16; 10:27-29, 10:34-35, 10:44-46 (verses on following page). Further biblical reading if desired: Acts 11:1-18; Acts 15:1-35.

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

*Acts 2:1-4*

*He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.*

*Acts 10:10-16*

*While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"*

*Acts 10:27-29*

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

*Acts 10:34-35*

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*

*Acts 10:44-46*

**Questions:**

- What was the main point of the Sermon? Do you have any disagreement or agreement about what was said? Do you have any questions about what was said?
- What are some challenges of having a diverse group of people in Christian fellowship together?
- Give positive and negative examples of how diversity (in race, culture, language, etc.) was handled by Christians in the past (either in your experience or in situations you've heard of). Do these experiences reflect the New Testament view of diversity?
- Where is Jericho Road Church succeeding in following the New Testament view of diversity and where is JRC failing in following the NT view of diversity?
  - **Follow up:** How can JRC get closer to following the NT view of diversity?