

Sermon Title: "MARKS OF A BIBLICAL CHURCH, Part 1"

Date: January 15, 2023 - Acts 11:1-18

Central Idea: When God gives powerful signs to show He is working, we can either join in God's work or oppose it. Are you joining in God's work?

Introduction: We study this large section because the narrative of the Cornelius story has been well established in Chapter 10. A good portion of Chapter 11 continues Peter's review of his experience. To the Jewish way of thinking, Peter committed three unpardonable sins. He had entered a Gentile's household, eaten with the family, and to make matters worse, had baptized a group of Gentiles into the church!

Fairness in Christian Criticism

- 1. When you least expect it vv. 1-3**
- 2. When you don't deserve it vv. 4-14**
- 3. When you can't understand it vv. 15-18**

Conclusion:

Christians are to receive one another and not dispute over cultural differences or minor matters of personal conviction (Romans 14-15). Some of the Jewish Christians in the early church wanted the Gentiles to become Jews, and some of the Gentile believers wanted the Jews to stop being Jews and become Gentiles! Attitudes such as these can create serious division in the church even today, so it is important that we follow the example of Acts 11:18 and the admonition of Romans 14:1, and receive those whom God has also received.