



**ELEPHANTS IN  
THE ROOM**  
“Race & Reconciliation”  
Acts 10:1-8, 17-48  
July 28, 2019

*Race isn't a political issue but a Gospel issue.*

*The picture of heaven with the diversity of people worshipping around the throne shouldn't have to be reserved just for heaven – it is supposed to happen down here too!*

### **The Realities of Racism**

- ✓ Racism and racial tension isn't anything new in the last 200 years – it's been happening for thousands of years.
- ✓ Our country grows ever more diverse and the population diversity is rapidly shifting.
- ✓ There is still racial division on our country, and in some areas and with certain groups of people, it grows stronger among all races.
- ✓ There is still racism that exists in the church – Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour in America.
- ✓ There have been some strides in reconciliation but there is still a long way to go. There are some systemic issues that are still pervasive.

### **The Reasons People Give**

- ✓ Tradition – way it's always been
- ✓ Ignorance - Stereotypes

- ✓ Excuses
- ✓ Fear

### **The Results of Racism**

- ✓ Misunderstanding
- ✓ Hatred
- ✓ Fear
- ✓ Division

### **Our Return to Scripture**

- ✓ Peter had prejudice - he had bias - Jew towards Gentile.
- ✓ The Lord challenged Peter.
- ✓ Peter had to admit the truth.
- ✓ God had to change his heart and mind.
- ✓ Peter had to be willing to change.
- ✓ God used Peter to see the doors flung wide open for the Gospel & the church.

### **Our Response to Racism**

- ✓ Recognize your prejudice & biases.
- ✓ Reexamine your heart.
- ✓ Repent of those sins.
- ✓ Refuse to stay that way.

- ✓ Rejoice in our differences & our sameness.
- ✓ Realize it's easier to stay with your own culture but fight that temptation.
- ✓ Reach Out in Reconciliation
  - Be aware & appreciate other ethnicities and cultures.
  - Be eager to understand – Seek to understand before trying to be understood.
  - Be willing to listen & learn (have a teachable spirit).
  - Be intentional in building relationships.
  - Be mindful this is challenging at times to do but worth it in the end.
  - Be certain to die to yourself.
- ✓ Remember God's desire is for The Church to be undivided. So let's not build back what Jesus came to tear down, nor create divisions where Jesus came to bring peace.