



Part Three: Clean

In every culture we end up creating social norms and boundaries. We find ways to categorize people as 'in' or 'out.' One of the greatest scandals of history is how Jesus blew apart those boundaries!

Scripture: Acts 10:9-16

Bottom Line: The scandal of grace is that God accepts the unaccepted.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some social boundaries that exist in our culture or church culture that continue to make certain people feel like they do not belong? Why do you think people tend to create these kinds of boundaries?
2. Read the story of Peter's vision in Acts 10:9-16. What do you know about the background of unclean animals in the Old Testament? Why do you think this is a big deal? If you can remember from Sunday's message, what is it that made things unclean?
3. For Peter, being asked to kill and eat these animals would have made him feel extremely uncomfortable. Try to describe what you think Peter was feeling in that moment. Do you ever have some of those same feelings towards anyone else?
4. What does this vision tell us about God and how He wants us to view those who are made to be outsiders?
5. Peter comes to the conclusion that "I should not call any person common or unclean" (verse 28). What do you think that means? How does that challenge the way you think about people who are different from you?

Moving Forward

In smaller discussion/prayer groups: do you ever feel like you are unclean/unworthy/an outsider? Would you be willing to share something that makes you feel 'weird' or unacceptable? Talk about how Jesus' gracious acceptance through forgiveness speaks to your feelings. Encourage one another with the scandalous message of Jesus' grace: God accepts the unaccepted!