Acts 10:1-33
Series – The Gospel in Motion
Message – A Message for All
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Fifth Reformed Church
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The Dividing Wall of Hostility

- "Divisiveness is a constant characteristic of every community without Christ" (John Stott, Ephesians, p.96).

- Genesis 12:2-3

- "The tragedy was that Israel twisted the doctrine of election into one of favouritism, became filled with racial pride and hatred, despised Gentiles as 'dogs,' and developed traditions which kept them apart" (John Stott, Acts, p.185).

- Because of those inscriptions, that wall between the Court of the Gentiles and the rest of the Temple was referred to as "the _____ wall of hostility."
- Ephesians 2:13-16

The Vision

- A vision made to offend...

- "Surely not, Lord!"

- "The voice spoke to him a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean'" (Acts 10:15).
- *Katharizo* – to _____ clean, cleanse, or purify

- It seems that here, the Lord was trying to undo in Peter the idea that there are _____ humans.

The Waiting World

- Do not hesitate to _____ and _____ the human being in front of you.
- 1 Timothy 2:3-6

- Do we think of some people as impure or unclean?
- Are there groups or categories of people you place – maybe even unknowingly – beyond the sphere of God's love?
- Who are "those" people for you?

- You should not consider any other human being _____ or unclean.

How will you respond to God's word today?

_____
_____
_____

Reflection Questions

1. What surprised you about the depth of division between Jews and Gentiles in the ancient world?
2. Have you ever sensed the Lord calling you to something that triggered a "Surely not!" response in you? Say more.
3. What did the pictures of people do for you? Are you in touch with any internal tendency to think of some as second-class humans? What groups or categories of people do you struggle to love? With what groups do you hesitate to engage?
4. What captured your attention from the scripture or message?
5. What might God be saying to you?
6. What are you going to do about it?