

Part II
“The Reformation To Present Day
Church Councils Answers The Question:
‘Who Does God Call Into His Family?’”

Acts 11:1-18 (Acts 15:1-20)

Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the **Gentiles** had also received the **Word of God**. And when **Peter** came up to Jerusalem, those of the **Circumcision (Jewish Converts To Christianity)** contended with him, saying, “*You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!*” But **Peter** explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: “*I was in the City of Joppa **Praying**; and in a **Trance I saw a Vision**, an object descending like a great sheet, **let down from heaven** by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a **Voice (from Heaven) Saying (Rhema)** to me, ‘**Rise, Peter; kill and eat!**’ But I said, ‘**Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.**’ But the **Voice Answered (Rhema)** me again **from Heaven**, ‘**What God has cleansed you must not call common!**’ **Now this was done three times**, and **all were drawn up again into heaven**. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from **Caesarea**. Then the **Spirit Told (Rhema) Me** to **go with them, doubting nothing**. Moreover, these six brethren (present at the conference) accompanied me, and we entered the **Man's (Cornelius’) house**. And **He (Cornelius) Told (Rhema)** us how he had seen an **Angel (of God - Gabriel)** standing in his house, **Who Said (Rhema)** to **Him**, ‘Send men to Joppa, and call for **Simon whose surname is Peter**, **Who will tell you Words** by which you and all your household will be saved.’ And as **I (Peter)** began to **Speak (Rhema)**, the **Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning (at Pentecost)**. Then I remembered the **Word of the Lord**, how **He Said (Rhema)**, ‘**John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’ If therefore, **God Gave Them (the Gentiles) the Same Gift as He Gave Us (the Circumcised)** when **We believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?**” When **They (the Circumcision)** heard these things, **They (the Circumcision)** became silent; and **They (the Circumcised) Glorified God, Saying (Rhema)**, “**Then God Has also Granted to the Gentiles Repentance to (Eternal) Life (Along With Us – The Circumcised)!**”*

Acts 11:1-18 (NKJV)

CQ?

Central Question Of This Message
& Of The Reformation & Present Day Church Councils:
“Who Does God Call & Accept Into His Family?”
Let’s Review From Last Week Part I Of This Message!

Sub-Question CQ¹

“What Did The Jewish Interpretation Of God’s Word & Faith Teach Concerning:
The Question: ‘Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?’
In The Old Testament Times Before Jesus Lived & Taught?”

A

That **ALL Are Called Through The Jewish Faith Alone**,
& Who Also Have **ACCEPTED: Mosaic Law, Circumcision, Traditions,**
& **ALL Subsequent Belief Statements, Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family!**

Scriptural Support – NONE!

Misinterpretation Of God’s Word Throughout The Entirety Of Scripture
Relying On Proof Texting & The Theological Revelation & Teaching Of Men Over God!

Sub-Question CQ²

**“What Did Jesus Christ Teach While On Earth
Concerning The Question: “Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?”**

A

That **ALL Are Called & ALL Those Who** By Faith Alone **ACCEPT Him**,
As Both Lord & Savior, & Acknowledge That Only Through His Perfect Life & Sacrifice
Are They Given Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation, & **Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family**
Through **REBIRTH: By Water, Fire, & Spirit!**
Scriptural Support – YES!

Here Are Three Of Jesus’ Most Important Words On The Subject!
See (**Matthew 8:5-13, Matthew 21:33-45, & John 12:27-32**)

Sub-Question CQ³

**“What Was The Christian Church’s Interpretation Of God’s Word & Faith & Teaching
Concerning The Question: ‘Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?’
After Jesus Ascended Into Heaven In The 1st Century A.D.?”**

A

That **ALL Are Called & ALL Those Who** By Faith Alone **ACCEPT Jesus Christ**,
As Both Lord & Savior, & Acknowledge That Only Through His Perfect Life & Sacrifice
Are They Given Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation, & **Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family**
Through **REBIRTH: By Water, Fire, & Spirit!**
Scriptural Support – YES!

Conclusion Of The 1st Church Council On The Central Question!
See (**Acts 11:9-18**)

Conclusion Of The 2nd Church Council On The Central Question!
See (**Acts 15:6-20**)

Let’s Take A Look Now At The Church’s Response
To Our Central Question From The Protestant Reformation To The Modern Day!

CQ?

“Who Does God Call & Accept Into His Family?”

Sub-Question CQ⁴

**“What Was The Christian Church’s Interpretation Of God’s Word & Faith Teaching
Concerning The Question: ‘Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?’
After The Protestant Reformation?”**

A¹ – Catholic Response

That **ALL Are Called & ALL Those Who** By Faith & **“Accompanying Good Works”**
ACCEPT Jesus Christ, As Both Lord & Savior,
& Acknowledge That Only Through His Perfect Life & Sacrifice
Are They Given Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation,
& **Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family** Through Water & Spirit
Scriptural Support – NONE!

“Accompanying Good Works”

Misinterpretation Of God’s Word Throughout The Entirety Of Scripture,
Alongside Accepting The Revelation Of Men Coequally Alongside That Of Scripture:
Including The Writing & Rewriting Of Encyclicals, Dogma & Doctrine Throughout The Centuries
Since The Coming Of Jesus Christ By Direct Apostolic Succession & Authority!

A² – Reformed & Anabaptist Response

Only Those **God Chose By Predestination, From Beginning Of Time,**
By **His Perfect Sovereign Will**, **Are Called By Faith Alone & Irresistible Grace**
ACCEPT Jesus Christ, As Both Lord & Savior, & Acknowledge That Only Through
His Perfect Life & Sacrifice Are They Given Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation,
& **Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family** Through **REBIRTH: By Water, Fire, & Spirit!**

Scriptural Support – NONE!

“For Double Predestination & Irresistible Grace”

Misinterpretation Of God’s Word Throughout The Entirety Of Scripture
Relying On Proof Texting & The Theological Revelation & Teaching Of Men Over God!

A³ – Armenian / Wesleyan Response

That **ALL Are Called** & **ALL Those Who** By **Faith Alone ACCEPT Jesus Christ**,
As Both **Lord & Savior**, & **Acknowledge** That Only Through His **Perfect Life & Sacrifice**
Are They Given **Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation**, & **Are ACCEPTED Into God’s Family**
Through **REBIRTH: By Water, Fire, & Spirit!**

Scriptural Support – YES!

Many Biblical Texts Throughout The Whole Of Sacred Scripture!

NOTE – Will Support Later In This Message

Sub-Question CQ⁵

***“What Is The Christian Church’s Interpretation Of God’s Word & Faith Teaching
Concerning The Question: ‘Who Is Called & Accepted Into God’s Family?’
In Today’s Modern World In The Present Day Church?”***

A

A Myriad Of Complex Beliefs, Statements, Theologies,
& Various Interpretations That Go Far Beyond
The Scope Of Scripture’s Original Divine Intent,
& Today’s Limited Time For This Message!

Scriptural Support – NONE!

Misinterpretation Of God’s Word, Alongside Deception By The Evil One,
Acceptance Of New Age Doctrines, & Abandonment Of Salvation & Acceptance
Into God’s Family Through Jesus Christ Alone, As The Only Way To The Father,
In An Attempt To Be Inclusive, Non-Judgmental, & Accepting Of All!
Let’s Ask Our Central Question Once Again, In Light Of All The Past Christian Councils,
& Today’s Church Council Gathered Here This Morning!

CQ?

“Who Does God Call & Accept Into His Family?”

A: Let’s Look Only At God’s Word To The Earliest Leader Of The Christian Church,
Simon Peter, Who First Raised This Question With God’s Holy Spirit,
By Considering His Instruction & Teaching In His 2nd Epistle To Us, God’s People!

Peter Under The Direct Influence Of The Holy Spirit Instructs Us!

“This is now, beloved, the **Second Letter** I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the **Words Spoken** beforehand by the **Holy Prophets** and the **Commandment of the Lord and Savior Spoken** by your **Apostles**. Know this first of all, that in the **Last Days** mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, ‘Where is the **Promise of His Second Coming**? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the **Word of God** the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by **His Word** the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the **Lord** one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The **Lord** is not slow about His Promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for ‘ANY’ to perish but for ‘ALL’ to come to Repentance (& Eternal Life)!”

2nd Peter 3:1-9

(Continued Over)

Now Let's Answer The Central Question This Morning For **ALL TIME!**

CQ? : "Who Does God Call & Accept Into His Family?"

A: That **ALL Are Called!** And **ALL Those Who** By Faith Alone **ACCEPT** Jesus Christ,
As Both Lord & Savior, & Acknowledge That Only Through His Perfect Life & Sacrifice
Are They Given Grace, Forgiveness, & Salvation, & **Are ACCEPTED** Into God's Family
Through **REBIRTH:** By Water, Fire, & Spirit!
So, **Let's Ask A Couple Of New Questions!**

Q1: "So What Kind Of Godly People Ought We To Be?"

Q2: "What Kind Of Business Ought We To Be About As Followers Of Jesus Christ Our Lord?"

Peter Under The Direct Influence Of The Holy Spirit Continues To Instruct Us!

... *"But the **Day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in Holy Conduct and Godliness, looking for and hastening the Coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His Promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which Righteousness dwells."*

2nd Peter 3:10-13

Let Us Day By Day, Be His Called, Redeemed, Accepted, Indwelled, & Holy People,
With Great Fervency & Anticipation, Let Us Be Faithfully About Our Father's Business:
Calling, Preaching, Teaching, Mentoring, Serving, Healing, & Loving Others!

Let Us Daily Invite **ALL To ACCEPT God's Invitation To Become A Member Of His Eternal Family,**
In The Name Above Every Other Name Alone, Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ!