

# “No Man Is Common”

Dub McClish

In the house of the Gentile, Cornelius, the apostle Peter arrived at a dramatic conclusion for a biased Jew: “God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34–35). He then did the unthinkable for a Jew, offering salvation to him through the Gospel. Peter discovered that Jesus was concerned for all mankind, not just for Jews, as he had believed all of his life. He learned that Gentiles were equally acceptable to God as were Jews.

Men are still prone to judge others superficially, but Peter learned here that “no man is common” to God. In this fact is the Bible’s lofty view of man. Mankind is not “common” because of several factors:

- **We Are Made in God’s Image** (Gen. 1:26–27). This is true of every human being, regardless of how low he may have sunk. God has not only given men physical life, but He has made us rational, conscience-possessing beings with an immortal spirit/soul that will survive death and continue in eternity, either with or apart from our Creator. A condescending attitude is inappropriate and ungodly. **No man is common.**
- **Christ Died for Every Person:** He did not die for only a few, for many, or even for most men, but for all mankind (1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2). Calvinism’s “limited atonement” only for the “elect” is a fatal error. This error was basically that under which so many first century believing Jews labored. Peter learned better in the events relating to Cornelius. That Christ died for all means that **no man is common.**
- **Everyone Is a Potential Servant of God.** Matthew was a despised tax collector. Saul was a radical persecutor of Christians. What spiritual potential did professional anglers have? No one has the right to decide for any other whether or not he/she will hear the Gospel or serve the Savior. We are to sow the seed of the kingdom so that it may produce good fruit where it is able (Mat. 13:18–23). We are to take His saving Gospel to “the whole creation” in “all the world” so that those who choose to believe it and are baptized may be saved (Mark 16:15–16). Everyone has spiritual potential. **No man is common.**
- **Everyone Can Go to Heaven.** Not all **will** be in Heaven at last, but all could/can be. God’s ideal will is that none “should perish” (2 Pet. 3:9), but He “would have all men to be saved” (1 Tim. 2:4). Through God’s grace and mercy, based on the shed blood of Christ, He offers Heaven to all who will obey Him (Tit. 2: 11–12; 3:5; Rom. 5:9; Heb. 5:9).

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