



## Questions:

1. If you feel called to condone something prohibited by the Bible, or to condemn something the Bible permits, can your faith still be considered Biblical?
2. What is something you used to reject that now you embrace? Where does homosexuality fit for you? Do you accept it, reject it, or are you somewhere in between?
3. What stood out for you from Acts 11: 1-18?
4. The store of Peter's vision seems to indicate that, as Bruce said, "Spirit trumps scripture." Do you think that's true? Why or why not?
5. What has formed your opinions about homosexuality? Have those opinions changed over time? If so, what do you think prompted the change?

## EPISODE TITLE: "Peter's (Kosher) Pickle"

For the Love of God, Episode 1

### Featured Guest: Rev. Bruce Van Blair

Rev. Bruce Van Blair is a fully ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ. He is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School. His first church was in Paxton, Massachusetts, where he began his full-time ministry on February 1, 1959. He is Pastor Emeritus of Community Church Congregational in Corona del Mar, California, where he served for ten years. After being senior pastor of seven churches and over fifty years later, Bruce says that maybe he's starting to get a handle on some of it.

### Pneuma Divina Scripture: Acts 11: 1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." <sup>8</sup>But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

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