

Acts 10:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

Analysis

When Peter entered Cornelius's house, 'Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.' Cornelius's gesture, whether reverence or worship, was inappropriate. Peter's response (v.26) corrected this immediately. This incident warns against offering to any human the worship due God alone. From a Reformed perspective, this safeguards against the Catholic error of venerating saints and clergy - all humans are fellow servants (Revelation 19:10), unworthy of worship. Peter's humility contrasts with later papal claims to receive veneration.

Historical Context

In Roman culture, prostration before superiors was common. Cornelius may have meant respectful homage, but in a religious context, this gesture approached worship. Peter, as a Jew, understood the danger of anything resembling worship of creatures.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is worship of any creature (human or angel) forbidden?
2. How does Peter's refusal of veneration contradict later traditions of venerating saints and clergy?
3. What is the proper attitude toward church leaders according to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ώς δὲ ἐγένετο εἰσελθεῖν τὸν Πέτρον συναντήσας αὐτῷ
as And was coming in G3588 Peter met him
G5613 G1161 G1096 G1525 G4074 G4876 G846

ο Κορνήλιος πεσὼν ἐπὶ τοὺς πόδας προσεκύνησεν
G3588 Cornelius and fell down at G3588 his feet and worshipped
G2883 G4098 G1909 G4228 G4352

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:10 (Worship): And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Matthew 8:2 (Worship): And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Daniel 2:46 (Worship): Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

Daniel 2:30 (Parallel theme): But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

