

Acts 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Analysis

But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. God's rebuke establishes divine authority over purity definitions, declaring His power to declare clean what was formerly unclean.

Historical Context

What God hath cleansed asserts divine prerogative to redefine purity. The verb tense (perfected action) indicates completed work—God has acted decisively. This principle, revealed around 40 CE, extended beyond food to people—Gentiles whom God cleanses through faith must not be called common. The theological revolution prepared Christianity for worldwide mission beyond ethnic Judaism.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God's authority to declare clean reveal about His sovereignty?
2. How does this principle apply beyond dietary laws to human relationships?

3. In what ways should believers avoid imposing purity categories God has abolished?
4. What role does divine declaration play in establishing spiritual reality?
5. How does God's cleansing power override human religious categories?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	δὲ	μοι	φωνὴ	ἐκ	δευτέρου	ἐκ	τοῦ
answered	But	me	the voice	again	G1208	again	G3588
G611	G1161	G3427	G5456	G1537		G1537	
οὐρανοῦ	Ἄ	ὁ	θεὸς	ἐκαθάρισεν	σὺ	μὴ	κοίνου
heaven	What	G3588	God	hath cleansed	thou	not	common
G3772	G3739		G2316	G2511	G4771	G3361	G2840

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:9 (Parallel theme): And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.