

Unfinished – Week 6
What is Evangelism? – Part 2
Small Groups – Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

What was “the takeaway” (the most important point) from Sunday’s sermon and/or the sermon text, in your opinion?

What insight from Sunday’s sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Read Acts 17:16-34

1. In **Acts 17:16-21**, what did Paul see, feel, do and experience when he first visited Athens?

Read the following quote:

“Paul walked about the city of Athens, which was full of architectural marvels, but he looked at it from spiritually sensitive eyes. He was struck by how the town was filled with idols. He was, in a sense, seeing the town through God’s eyes, because the Greek word that describes his reaction to idolatry (“greatly distressed”) is the same one used to describe God’s reaction to idolatry in Isaiah 65: 2-3. In other words, Paul tended to look at the world through a Biblical filter. He was so sensitive to God’s word and thus to God’s attitudes, ways and heart that he could not help participating in God’s response.” - Timothy J. Keller and J. Allen Thompson

2. What principles can we draw from Paul’s response to Athens that we might incorporate into our missional approach?
3. What problems will arise if we grow too acquainted with, or too comfortable with, the idols in our area?
4. What is significant about the fact that Paul “reasoned” (v 17) and “conversed” (v 18) with a variety of people in a variety of places?

Reread Acts 17:22-34

5. In what ways did Paul find common ground with the Athenians he was trying to reach?
6. In what ways did Paul challenge the thoughts, beliefs and lives of the Athenians?
7. Why is it important to seek common ground as well as to challenge our culture? Why are both necessary?

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Read the following quote:

“We do not speak like Paul because we do not feel like Paul because we do not see like Paul. That was the order: he saw, he felt, he spoke. It all began with his eyes. When Paul walked around Athens, he did not just ‘notice’ the idols. The Greek verb used three times (16, 22, 23)...means to ‘consider.’ So, he looked and looked and thought until the fires...were kindled within.” - John Stott

8. Have you experienced the “fires within” to reach a people group that this quote refers to? If so, when?
9. Do you have a sense that you are “on mission” to reach and transform our area with the gospel of Jesus?
10. Thinking back through this lesson as a whole, what is one practical step you need to take to see the people around us the way God sees them?

Pray together as a group