



BETTER

Evening Bible Study 11/14/18 - Min. Devante Hudson

A Better Christ: Exploring Christ in Culture

Acts 17:22-34 (NKJV)

Objectives:

1. To learn better culture engagement methods as Christians via Paul's sermon.
2. To challenge our misconceptions of modern-day evangelism.
3. To have a better approach to others who do not share our same beliefs.

Let's talk about it...

1. What is culture?
2. Who defines culture?

Summary:

Our lives are not absent of confrontation. We can very well experience confrontation on our jobs, family, friend circles, political conversations, and religious dialogues. Confrontation, however, is not always the best way for the Christian community to engage the world. Often, the culture is misguided, struggling, or simply ignorant of God's grace, but not actually oppressive. In these cases, the best way to proclaim the gospel may be to carefully partner with culture and engage it with respect.

In Acts 17, Paul provides a model for how to respectfully engage a culture. It begins with observation. A commitment to the radical transformation of society, that we want to see, does not mean that Christians have to oppose everything about society. It is my belief that society is not so much totally godless as it is God-unaware. Even the prophet Isaiah seeks to remind us of God's work in the earth and us, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? [are you not aware of it?]" (Isaiah 43:19 ESV). If we are truly observant, then we see that even those unaware or scornful of Christ are nonetheless made in the image of God.

Our goal as Christians should not be to discredit people who do not share our beliefs. Our role is not to condemn their work, but to strengthen and improve it, showing those we work with that God "is not far from each of us" (Acts 17:27).

In order to better engage culture with a Christ mentality let's examine, arguably, Paul's greatest sermon and his method:

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| 1. The Audience (vv. 17-21) | 3. The Address/Appeal (vv. 24-31) |
| 2. The Approach (vv. 22-23) | 4. The Response (vv. 32-34) |

Prayer

Jesus,

I ask that you give me your eyes to see both the good and wrongs in the world and culture around me. Give me the wisdom to reach out to others with grace and healing, and to proclaim your truth with boldness and conviction.

~ In Jesus Name, Amen

