

The Church at Antioch

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Intro:

1. Acts – the Gospel spreading throughout all the world
2. Acts 10 – pivotal point of the book – the 1st Gentile convert and the gospel goes to the gentiles
3. Acts 11:19-30 describes an important first century church – the church at Antioch

Discussion:

I. A Church that was Inclusive

- A. **Acts 11:19-21**
- B. :19 – before the gospel was preached to Jews only
- C. :20 – but in Antioch, they preached to Greek also
- D. This was not a diversion from God’s plan, but fulfillment
 1. **Gen. 12:1-3** – all the families of the earth
 2. **Gen. 22:18** – all the nations of the earth
 3. **Is. 2:2** – all nations
- E. **John 10:16** – ‘other sheep’
- **Acts 10:45; 11:18; 13:46-47**
- F. God want’s this inclusivity!
 1. **Acts 11:21** – the hand of the Lord was with them
 2. **Gal. 3:26-29** – if you are Christ’s, you are an heir

II. A Church of Ex-Sinners Saved by Grace

- A. Acts 11:23 – Barnabas saw the effects of grace
- B. Impossible to be saved without the grace of God – **Eph. 2:8-9**
- C. Like those at Corinth – gave up sinful ways – **1 Cor. 6:9-11**
- D. **Romans 6:1-7** – those saved by grace don’t continue in sin!

III. A Church Actively Teaching the Word of God

- A. **Acts 11:24-26**
- B. The church was involved with teaching 2 groups of people
 1. The lost (evangelism) (:24,21) – **Ac. 2:47; Mt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 1:21-25**
 2. The saved (edification) (:26) – **Ac. 2:40-42; Eph. 4:10-16**
- C. Fundamental reason local churches exist - teaching

IV. A Church that Regularly Assembled Together

1. **Acts 11:26**. Assembled AND taught (assembly for worship includes teaching)
2. **Heb. 10:19-25** – not forsaking the assembling
3. **Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19** – teach and admonish ONE ANOTHER
4. **1 Cor. 11:17-23** - concerning the Lord’s supper

V. A Church that Wore the Name of Christ

- A. **Acts 11:26**. – first called Christians (Called by GOD!)
- B. **Is. 56:5; 62:2; 65:15** – a new name prophesied
- C. **Acts 26:28; 1 Pt. 4:16** – other two places in NT
- D. What name could be more fitting?
- E. **Mt. 16:18** – I will build my church
- F. **Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2** – Church of Christ, Church of God (Christ)

VI. A Church that Was Benevolent

- A. **Acts 11:27-30**.
- B. This was a common practice among the early church
 - 1. **Acts 2:44-45** – together, all in common, sold, gave
 - 2. **Rom. 15:26** – contribution for poor among the saints
 - 3. **1 Cor. 16:1-4** – collection for the saints
- C. Always for needy saints – the church is not a relief organization for the world

Conclusion:

- 1. How do we compare to the church at Antioch?
- 2. Are you a part of the church which belongs to Christ?