
Christian Living In A Divided Culture (Part 2)

What Paul & Barnabas did:

Acts 14:1-20

What Paul told those churches to do:

Galatians 5:16-26, 6:7-10

- Walk and respond in the **SPIRIT**, not your **HUMAN NATURE**.
- If you call yourself a **CHRISTIAN**, then act like **CHRIST**.

What Paul told their church leaders to do:

2 Timothy 2:1-10

- Remember we are in a **BATTLE**.
- Don't fall for the **ENEMY'S SCHEMES**.
- Don't **CUT CORNERS** in our own lives.
- Never forget why we are **STILL HERE**.

What we are supposed to do:

Acts 13-14

- Prepare our minds for **OPPOSITION**.
- Prepare our hearts for **WINNING PEOPLE**.
- Let our **REAR-VIEW MIRROR** be our judge, not our **WINDSHIELD**.
 - Who am I winning from the **OPPOSITION**,
not who is **AGREEING WITH ME** from my team?

Food for Thought

For the week of August 30, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

This weekend Chris talked about the four things Paul wanted church leaders to do and three things he wants us to do. As you look at those seven attitudes and actions, which of these are easiest or most natural for you to do?

Which of them is the biggest challenge for you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the message we saw Paul facing both opposition and physical persecution as he faithfully carried out the ministry God called him to. As we think about the possibility of Christians facing more opposition in the future, it's helpful to take a look at how Jesus responded to those who were indifferent or outright hostile to Him. What do you notice about Jesus' attitude toward people and His response to them in the following passages?

Matthew 9:35-38 New International Version (NIV)

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 20:29-34 New International Version (NIV)

²⁹ As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰ Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

³¹ The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

³² Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³³ "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

³⁴ Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 23:37-39 New International Version (NIV)

³⁷ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Luke 9:51-56 New International Version (NIV)

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.

Luke 19:41-44 New International Version (NIV)

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

John 11:32-36 New International Version (NIV)

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

How might what you learn about Jesus in these passages help you prepare for opposition, know how to respond to those who don’t agree with us and work to share the Gospel with people?

2. It’s no surprise that it can be challenging to reach out to or accept those who are different or have a belief system contrary to our own. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16. How does the Apostle Paul’s understanding of his past and what God did for him impact his viewpoint of others?

1 Timothy 1:12-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.



Life Group Sign-ups: September 5-20 - Life Groups are our small group ministry and the key to getting connected at North Coast Church. We have groups for everyone from young adults to senior adults. Especially in this season, Life Groups have never been more important - community is connection! That's why this year we have options for groups that will meet in person (following current guidelines), as well as groups that will meet online, and even some that will do a hybrid of both! To start checking out the options, visit northcoastchurch.com/groups. Be sure to sign up on September 5th! Don't delay, groups will fill fast.