

## How A Church Upsets A City

### About that time...

Acts 19:23

### What are we known for?

Acts 19:23-41, The book of Ephesians

The:

Way:

The church was:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Pro-\_\_\_\_\_, not anti-\_\_\_\_\_.

Known for \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ they were \_\_\_\_\_.

About a \_\_\_\_\_, not about \_\_\_\_\_.

About \_\_\_\_\_ change that changed others' \_\_\_\_\_.

## How A Church Upsets A City

### About that time...

Acts 19:23

### What are we known for?

Acts 19:23-41, The book of Ephesians

The:

Way:

The church was:

**MISSIONAL.**

Pro-**JESUS**, not anti-**EVERYTHING ELSE**.

Known for **WHO** they **FOLLOWED**, not **WHAT** they were **AGAINST**.

About a **MOVEMENT**, not about **MOMENTS**.

About **LIFE** change that changed others' **LIVES**.

## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of November 15, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

### QUICK REVIEW

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?

### MY STORY

1. Chris talked about how the Ephesian church was focused on reaching out to others in the city. In your own life, can you think of anyone who reached out to you to tell you about Jesus? What do you remember about what they said and/or did that was helpful to you?

2. We all struggle with trying not to define our identity by what others think about us or how well we perform. In the first "Digging Deeper" question, we'll look at who God says we are, which is how we're supposed to define our identity. As you were growing up, can you think of any ways you were impacted by trying to gain a sense of security and significance from what others said about you or how well you performed?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Six years after Paul was in Ephesus, he wrote a letter to the church he had started there. We call that letter the book of Ephesians. In this letter, he gave instructions on how to live in a way that will make an impact on the city of Ephesus. This week we're going to look at a few of the things he wrote to help us better understand how we can live so we can have an increasing impact on the world around us.

1. Several times throughout the first three chapters of his letter, Paul reminded the Ephesians of who they were as followers of Christ. This new identity is not something we have to work for – it is ours because we are Christians. It means we no longer have to define ourselves by what others say, what our feelings say or what our successes and failures say. This new identity provides freedom and security and is the foundation of the changed life that Chris talked about.

The following verses paint a picture of our identity as Christians. Under each passage, jot down what it says about our identity in Christ, and then answer the questions below.

#### ***Ephesians 1:3 New International Version (NIV)***

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

#### ***Ephesians 1:7-8a New International Version (NIV)***

*<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us.*

**Ephesians 2:4-7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:19-20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

**Ephesians 3:12 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

How would you describe what a person would be like whose life consistently reflects the truths of these verses?

Which statement about our new identity in Christ would you say is most misunderstood or overlooked by Christians?

It’s easy to forget about our new identity and the freedom and security it provides. What are some ways that could help us remember who we are as followers of Christ?

2. In the last three chapters of the letter, Paul switched his focus to helping the Ephesians live out their new identity in their relationships with each other and in the community around them. Which of Paul’s instructions in the verses below do you find the hardest to carry out? Which is the easiest for you to follow?

**Ephesians 4:1-2 New International Version (NIV)**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**Ephesians 4:25-27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

**Ephesians 4:31-32 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Can you identify one or two areas Paul talked about in which you’ve seen significant growth in your life over the years?

Is there anything that has been particularly helpful in causing this growth?

3. The verses in “Digging Deeper” #2 paint a picture of someone many of us would say is outside the realm of possibility of us ever becoming. But wait; there is hope. In order for us to consistently live this way, we need more than knowledge, willpower and effort. We also need the power that only God provides. Paul talks about how we can experience this power through the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. How does John 15:4-5 help you understand what it means to depend on God’s power to live the Christian life?

**Ephesians 5:18 New International Version (NIV)**

*<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,*

**John 15:4-5 New International Version (NIV)**

*<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Can you think of any challenges people face in tapping into God’s power to live the Christian life?

Do you have any questions about how to tap into God’s power in your life?

**TAKING IT HOME**

Which point from this weekend’s message or Life Group study is most important for you to remember?

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- 
  
- 
  
- 
  
- 
  
- 



**COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT**

Looking for a great way to give back this Thanksgiving? North Coast has partnered with several local non-profits to help bring Thanksgiving meals to needy families. To sign up or for more information, go to [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](http://NorthCoastCommunityService.org) and search “Thanksgiving.”