**Acts 11:19-26**

**“The Church at Antioch”**

Sermon Goal: In looking at what happened in Antioch, hopefully each of us will take stock of our own individual faith, which should define our relationship to God and then we may also be willing to recognize and perform the role God wants us to serve in His Church. But first...

**Recap/Review of Acts 11:1-18 “Peter is Vindicated”**

Conflict, even between Christian brothers and sisters, is bound to happen. How should we view/respond to conflict in a Godly way?

**SLIDE 1**

**Acts 11:1-18 Outline**

**1. Accusation/Conflict (Vs. 1-4)**

**2. Peter’s Defense/Testimony (Vs. 5-15)**

**3. The Defense Rests (Vs. 16-17)**

**4. The Verdict (V. 18)**

**Points of Application regarding conflict:**

**SLIDE 2**

**1. Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing (Colossians 3:1-3)**

(I think I messed this up last week – It was not supposed to be Colossians 3:13, but 1-3)

*“Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.****2****Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth.****3****For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

**2. Be Humble (Colossians 3:12-13)**

*“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience;****13****bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.”*

3. **Measure Your Responses (James 1:19-20)**

*“You know this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger;****20****for a man’s anger does not bring about the righteousness of God.”*

 **If we learned one thing last week...**

**SLIDE 3**

**Seek the Attitude of Christ (Philippians 2:1-7)**

*“Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.”*

**This Week: Acts 11:19-26 “The Church at Antioch”**

**The Passage this week presents a major pivot point in our history as Christians, as well as a few excellent lessons about how we should view our identity and our role in the church. Let’s read...**

**SLIDE 4**

*“So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks as well, preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And considerable numbers were added to the Lord. 25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”*

**Working through the Passage:**

**V. 19 –**

*“So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 20 –**

*“But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks as well, preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 21 –**

*“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.”*

**Notes:**

**Vs. 22-24 –**

*“The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And considerable numbers were added to the Lord.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 25-26 -**

*“And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”*

**Notes:**

**SLIDE 5**

**Application/Points of Emphasis**

**1. Preaching vs. Teaching: Are you a believer, or a disciple?**

Do you need to be preached to, or taught? Our Christianity should not be a matter of mere intellectual assent, but of true belief, which leads to repentance and following – a new identity. If you don’t view yourself as regenerated (Born Again) in Christ, you need to assess your so-called faith.

**Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.” –** Read Matthew. What is the will of God? That we repent and put our faith in Jesus – This means that we truly become identified with Christ. This is not a works-based statement, it is a faith-based reliance on Jesus.

**2. “Christian?” How do *YOU* identify?**

**Galatians 2:20 –**

**“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”**

**3. Encourager/Preacher/Teacher: What is your role in the Body?**

**Ephesians 2:10 –**

**“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”**