

**MISSIONAL Part 2 – Acts 17:16-34****I. The Church Is Devoted To God And One Another in...**

- Ephesians 2:19, Acts 2:41-45; 9:17
- 1) Teaching
  - 2) Fellowship
  - 3) Breaking bread
  - 4) Prayer

**II. The Church Is Empowered And Led By The Holy Spirit**

- Acts 1:8; 4:8; 8:29; 13:2-3
- 1) He Deepens our intimacy
  - 2) Empowers our gifts
  - 3) Leads us

**III. The Church Is A Family That Prays**

- Mark 11:17, Acts 4:29-31
- 1) Upward
  - 2) Inward
  - 3) Outward

**IV. The Church Is Missional – Acts 1:8, 17:16-34****A. “Provoked” (compelled by Christ’s love) – Acts 17:16**

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

**B. Neighboring (“in the market place”) – Acts 17:17-22**

- See handout “Ideas for how to be a Neighbor”
  - “Very religious”
1. Epicureans (ex. atheist and secular evolutionist)

2. Stoics (ex. Gnostics, Pantheist, New Age, etc.)

**C. On-Message – (see back for more)****1. Tell Them Who God Is – Acts 17:22-27**

- “The God who made ...everything”
- “Seek God...feel their way toward him...find him”
- “Yet he is actually not far from each of us”

**2. Tell Them Who Man Is – Acts 17:26-31**

- Psalm 145:17-18

**3. Tell Them Who Jesus Is – Acts 17:18, 30-34*****Responsive Reading*** - Psalm 67:1-5

**Prayer:** *Lord, may your love compel me not live my life for myself but for you. Give me the boldness and the power of your Spirit to share the good news of Jesus Christ with my neighbors!*

*America has become predominantly a pre-Christian Greek culture like the one Paul spoke to in Athens (Acts 17:16-34). We cannot assume people know who the one true God is or what it means to be a sinner in need of salvation. We might need to start with who God is or who Man is before we can tell them about Jesus. Both Jesus and Paul captured this idea of “God, Man, and Jesus” in single memorable verses like - John 3:16 and Romans 5:8.*

**Tell Them Who God Is – See Acts 17:22-27, 31**

- God is the creator of everything that exists in the heavens and on earth (Genesis 1).
- God is good (Psalm 86:5; 100:5) which we can see in the life of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:38). You can trust God’s good character.
- God is Holy which means he is absolutely pure and immeasurably good. He is not responsible for the sickness, injustice, or death that we see in the world (1 Peter 1:14-16).
- God will one day judge the world through Christ because of our sin (Acts 17:30-31). God will create a new heaven and earth where we can be with him (Isaiah 65:17-18, 2 Peter 3:11-13).
- God loves us and has relentlessly been seeking to restore what was broken in our relationship with him (John 3:16-17)

**Tell Them Who Man Is – See Acts 17:26-31**

- God made us (i.e. men and women) in his own image and blessed them (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2). From one man he made all nations that they should seek God and find him.
- Sin and death entered the world through Adam in the Garden when he disobeyed God’s commandment (Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12).
- Sin is anything in our behavior, words, or heart that goes against God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings.
- We are all sinners in need of salvation (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

**Tell Them Who Jesus Is – See Acts 17:18, 30-34**

- Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God’s promise in Genesis to send one who would crush Satan (Gen. 3:15).
- Jesus did this by dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the grave three days later to defeat death and give eternal life for those who believe. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6, Romans 5:8, 17; 6:23).
- Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). He said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6, Acts 4:12).
- If we believe Jesus and confess our sin, we do not come into judgment but cross over from death to life (John 5:24, Romans 10:9). Then we become children of God (John 1:12)!