

Series: Love Where You Live

Message: Redemptive Unity For Where You Live

Scripture: Acts 11: 19-26, 13:1-3 (ESV)

Teacher: Jeff Norris

Date: 22/23 October 2016

Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3 ESV

11:19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.

20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,

24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Amazing Church at Antioch

1. What made this church so amazing?

- 1) A church born of radical love
- 2) A church filled with missionary zeal
- 3) A church marked by redemptive unity

2. How could such a church be explained?

1) It's what the Holy Spirit was doing through the book of Acts

- a. Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- b. Acts 2 – Pentecost – “devout Jews, men from every nation”
- c. Acts 8 – Philip preaches the gospel to the Samaritans (half Jew/half Gentile)
- d. Acts 10 – Peter and Cornelius (full Gentile)
- e. Acts 15 – Jerusalem Council – official declaration of Jew and Gentile equality under the gospel
- f. Paul a missionary to the Gentiles (much of the rest of Acts...)
- g. Acts 28 – Paul in Rome – Acts 1:8 is being fulfilled...keep going...keep uniting...

2) It's what the Holy Spirit was doing throughout the entirety of the Bible.

- a. Genesis 12 – the call of Abraham out of Ur (a pagan land) – “in you all the families of the earth will be blessed”
- b. Book of Ruth – a book devoted to showing that the great grandmother of the great King David was a Gentile – that the very kingly line of Jesus Himself would include those from the nations
- c. Jonah and Nineveh – Nineveh (modern day Iraq) – a Gentile land – a book about God's love for the Gentiles – connect to Acts 10 – Joppa
- d. All throughout the prophets God's people are exhorted to be a light to the nations/Gentiles
- e. Ephesians 2:14 – “For He himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.”
- f. Galatians 3:28 – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- g. Colossians 3:11 – “Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Application: