

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, July 29, 2018

**Known By Who We Make Known
A Study of Acts 11:19-30**

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In sociology, anthropology and cultural studies, a subculture is a group of people with a culture (whether distinct or hidden), which differentiates them from the larger culture. Who are the subcultures identified by these labels:

Trekkies
Kickers
Potterheads
Gym rats
Gear heads
Tree Huggers

What other subcultures can you think of?

The word “Christians” is the English translation of the Greek word *christianous* (pronounced “Chris-teea-NOOS”). It means “Christ’s people” Followers of Christ were first called “Christians” in Antioch. It was a name given them by outside observers. They saw certain things in the lives of the disciples and called them “Christ’s people.”

Let’s explore three questions

Are You Known By How You Speak of Christ?

Read Acts 11:19-21.

In verse 19, what dark event served to spread the light of the gospel into cities like Antioch? Why?

Can dark events often serve as launching mechanisms for testimonies of faith? How?

In verse 20, we're told they told people "the good news about the Lord Jesus." What do you think would be included in that good news?

In verse 21, we're told that "the Lord's hand" was with the disciples as they shared their faith. What does that mean?

Have you experienced "the Lord's hand" when sharing the good news?

Verse 21 says "a great number of people believed." Was it because the disciples were "telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus" or because "the Lord's hand was with them"?

Are You Known By How You Align Your Life to Christ's Teachings?

Read Acts 11:22-26.

What was Barnabas' role in Antioch? How is he described?

What was the response to him and why?

Verse 26 says: "for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people." What do you think they taught the people? In other words, what are the "basics" you think a Christian needs to know about Christian belief and practice? Make a list.

Do others observe your life choices and conclude you are following the teachings of Christ?

Are You Known By How You Take Care of Those Who Belong to Christ?

Read Acts 11:27-30.

Why do you think Dr. Luke included this practical example in his account of the fledgling Antioch church?

Why are practical expressions of caring often a more powerful tool of witness than our words?

Would others observe your acts of caring and conclude you are a Christ person?

Conclusion

On this day when we vote on new staff members to lead our Youth Ministry and Children's Ministry, it's important to reflect on what we are "known for" in the city. Pray for our vote at 12:30, and pray for the people of Hillcrest to be known for how we speak of Christ, how we obey him, and how we take care of each other.

Dismiss at 12:15!

Our special called business meeting begins in the auditorium at 12:30. Pick up your kids and don't be late!



Close with praise reports and prayer requests