

## Three Lessons to be Learned

A. The real troublemakers are always the **leaders** of the **established religion**.  
(Not **establishment**)

**False** religion does not like **true** religion.

We must **stand for Truth** - on the **Scriptures**.

B. The basis of controversy was always only  
- what God had **said** in the **Scriptures**  
- what God had **done** in history

We are to live **peaceably** with all people.  
We are to **love** all people.

Nevertheless, the world will **hate** us as it hated Christ.

C. As people turn against the church, the church **grows** with a growth that is from **God**.

Our **faithfulness** is significant

### What do we do?

- ◆ We **act** by choice
- ◆ We **pray** for courage

*"When you are brought before the leaders, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

Luke 12:11-12

## **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1) What is it about conflict or controversy that so many of us shy away from?

2) Why will there be controversy when people speak the Truth of God's Word?

3) Would you agree or disagree that the word "doctrine" is virtually a swear word for many in the church today. Why?

4) As we speak the Truth, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Discuss how speaking the Truth and being filled with the Spirit are related.

5) In the Book of Acts, the real troublemakers are always the leaders of the established religion (not the establishment). Do you think this continues to be the case today? Explain.

6) The Apostle's controversy was always over what God had said and done. When it is based on ourselves it can turn ugly. Discuss.

7) Why is acting by choice (even when we feel weak) important to being filled with the Holy Spirit?

### Daily Reading Plan:

This Reading Plan is an aide to help focus on the "Life of the Church" message series. Each week's reading's are preparatory for the upcoming message. Although we are concentrating on the Book of Acts, the reading plan will also include other New Testament books and may be repetitive from week to week.

Monday - Acts 4

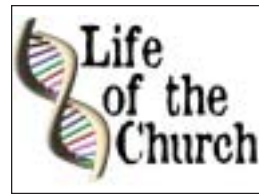
Tuesday - Romans 1

Wednesday - Romans 2

Thursday - Romans 3

Friday - Romans 4

Weekend - Romans 5-6



# Redeeming Notes

Pastor Dave Glesne ..... "Power to Engage in Controversy"

February 5, 2006 ..... Acts 4:1-12

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*"Being filled with the Holy Spirit"* also means being willing to **engage in controversy**

'Controversy' - from "**contra**" which means "**a turning against**"

When you speak the **truth** there are those who turn against you.

- ◆ Acts 4:1-3 - a **doctrinal** statement
- ◆ Acts 3:14a - a clear claim to **divinity**
- ◆ Acts 3:19-21 - forgiveness through understanding **what** Christ has done

referring to Christ's **coming again**

- ◆ Acts 4:8-10 - Peter is convinced of **truth**

Peter does not **draw back** even when forbidden to speak

- ◆ Acts 6-7 - **Stephen** is engaged in controversy
- ◆ Acts 13 - Paul spoke the truth and **as he spoke** he was filled with the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Acts 19:23 - Paul teaches and a **riot** breaks out