

B. The **Synagogue** is a place of **Jewish** worship. After the destruction of the Jerusalem temple the Jews set up places where their people could worship.

C. The **Marketplace** was more than just a place to **buy and sell** but also a place of meeting friends for **religious discussion** for the majority of the people in **Athens**.

3. Who were the Epicurian & Stoic philosophers in Athens?

A. **Epicurians** were people who believed in **living in excess**. Living by their senses and emotions and doing what pleased them as the highest good.

B. **Stoics** on the other hand were very serious people committed to **living by a strict standard** that denounced the emotional excitement of the rest of society.

II. Question 2: Have you proclaimed Jesus Christ to someone outside your social circle?

1. First, what is an Areopagus?

A. The **Areopagus** was a **religious tribunal court** on a hill that was named after the god of war called Ares or Mars.

B. It was filled with highly trained **lawyer philosophers** who were interested in **new religious ideas**. Paul wasn't nervous about sharing Christ, after all he was a former **Pharisee**, a lawyer in his own right.

2. Who is very religious and what will you proclaim?

A. Paul had spent time talking with the people **outside** his normal comfort zone, and he developed **real relationships** with them.

B. Paul understood the **culture** and spent time understanding the things that were **meaningful** to the people, even by telling them he noticed their '**very religious**' worship.

C. Paul helped them connect with **Jesus Christ** from ideas that were already known to them. He used the phrase '**An Unknown God**'. We call this a **redemptive analogy**.

Conclusion:

We read that in Acts 17:34 many became followers of Paul and believed including a member of the Areopagus and a number of others!

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1) What "idols" are most distressing to you?

2) How will you "reason" with people?

3) What are some other ways to "proclaim" other than preaching?



Redeeming Notes

Title: "Apologetic Christianity: Saying Sorry or Proclaiming the Truth", Acts 17:16-23
Jeremy Oltmann, Redeemer Missionary
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I. Question 1: Are you greatly distressed by seeing that the Twin Cities are full of idols?

1. Who or what are idols?

A. **Historically** they were actual graven images of a **deity**, or **god**, made of gold, silver, stone, wood, etc., for ritual worship.

B. All have to do with **power, lust, prestige & desire** to do something, be something or worship something that is not worthy of emulation in itself.

C. **Idolatry** is anything that we hold in our **heart** to be more important than God or something that **distorts** the **revelation** of who God is.

2. What is reasoning in the Synagogues and Marketplace?

A. The word '**apologeia**' in Greek means to **reason** and to **defend**. When we give reasons about our faith in Christ this is called '**doing apologetics**'.