

## Lecture 20 – All Things to All People: Principles of Communication (Part 2)

*“On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, ‘Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak.’” Acts 13:14 ff.*

*“When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’ ...The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them...” Acts 14:11 ff.*

*“While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there...” Acts 17:16 ff.*

### Key Terms

Building bridges, understanding, compassion & commitment

### Objectives

- \*Continue discussing the principles of communication.
- \*Identify and discuss some of the issues involved in “understanding.”
- \*Discuss how these principles can be applied and evidenced in our lives.

### Principles of Communication (cont.)

#### 2. Building bridges (cont.)

- d. Our task: Begin by asking “What is right about this person’s thinking and life? What bridges can I build?”
- e. Building bridges with those who are secular, who are “not religious”
  - 1) Everyone is “religious” (Where is your trust?)
  - 2) Everyone is “moral” (What is right and wrong?)
- f. Building bridges with cynics
 

An example from Prof. Barrs’ life

#### 3. Understanding what others believe

- a. Again, in the synagogue, we assume Paul knows the people and their culture just as he knows himself.
- b. In Athens we discover that Paul has a deep understanding of his hearers.
 

For ourselves today  
We need to do our homework when talking to people.
- c. Examples from the Gospels
 

Jesus asked questions.
- d. This is not simply a matter of doing one’s homework. It arises from a sense of compassion for people, from respect for their culture and from the commitment to be all things to all people.