

Lecture 21 – All Things to All People: Principles of Communication (Part 3)

“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

Language (vocabulary, tone, nuance), adaptation

Objectives

- *Continue discussing the principles of communication.
- *Identify and discuss issues related to scriptural principles for the use of language.
- *Discuss how these principles can be applied and evidenced in our lives.

Introduction

Notes regarding paper assignment

Principles of Communication (cont.)

4. Language

- a. In the synagogue
- b. In Athens
 - The New Testament is full of this adaptation of language to communicate the gospel.
- c. The trial scenes in Acts 22, 24, and 26
 - Courtroom language
- d. Examples throughout the New Testament
 - 1) (See Lecture 21 Appendix – “Paul’s Areopagus Address”)
 - 2) OT language for “God”
 - El
 - Adonai
 - YHWH
 - 3) NT language for “God”
 - Theos
 - Kurios
 - No equivalent for YHWH
 - 4) Paul’s adaptation of language helps the hearers.
 - Communicates to the hearers
 - Helps establish an understanding for living as Christians in their culture
 - Learn to communicate to others.
- e. House codes
- f. We must communicate biblical truth in a person’s common language.