

Lecture 23 – All Things to All People: Principles of Communication (Part 5)

“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

Clarity; challenge & confrontation; mind, heart & will

Objectives

- *Continue discussing the principles of communication.
- *Discuss how these principles can be applied and evidenced in our lives.

Principles of Communication (cont.)

Introductory Review

6. Clarity: A careful definition of the message
 - a. In the synagogue
 - b. In Athens
 - c. Jesus’ teaching
 - d. Paul commands us to have our words seasoned with salt.
7. Challenge: The need to challenge the heart, mind and will
 - a. In the synagogue
 - b. In Athens
 - c. At the heart of all sin is pride; thus, our most precious things are challenged.
 - d. The gospel always directs its challenge to the idols of heart, mind, and will in every culture.
 - Idols for the Jews: the Law
 - Idols for the Greeks: wisdom
 - Idols for American culture:
 - Wealth
 - Freedom
 - Self-satisfaction
 - Tolerance

Word of warning: Be aware of your own idols.