

Influencing Culture - Week Five
Communicating the Gospel into Different Cultures
1 Corinthians 15:1-5; John 3; Acts 17

Introduction: The absolute truth of the gospel is unchanging. But, various people in the New Testament, including Jesus, communicated the gospel in ways that were highly relevant to their culture. As they did this, they never sacrificed one shred of the truth in the message; rather they made the message easier to understand by respecting the listener's cultural orientation. We start with understanding...

1. ***THE UNCHANGING MESSAGE – In 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Paul distilled the gospel message down to its essential components.***
 - A. The message of the gospel contains the good news about eternal salvation. 15:1-3a
 - B. The gospel message in its distilled form contains a two part message. 15:3b-9
 - C. The gospel transforms lives. Paul is the quintessential example. 15:9-10a
 - D. The gospel is designed to be shared widely across many cultures in God's power. 15:10b-11

2. ***HOW THE GOSPEL WAS SHARED IN JERUSALEM – Jesus expressed the gospel in terms a religious person can understand. John 3:14-16***
 - A. The setting: Jesus is ministering in the religious center of Israel: Jerusalem. John 3:1-3
 - B. The story: Jesus reminded Nicodemus of a shocking story. John 3:14-16 (See Numbers 21:5-9.)
 - C. The significance: The story is a perfect illustration of what Jesus came to do.
 - D. Jesus' message was tailor made, designed for the teacher of Israel. John 2:14-16

3. ***HOW THE GOSPEL WAS SHARED IN ATHENS – Paul expressed the gospel in terms a secular person can understand. Acts 17:16-34***
 - A. The setting: Paul waited for friends in Athens, the intellectual center of the secular world. 17:16a
 - B. The sermon: Paul creatively expresses the gospel to secular people. 17:22-32
 - C. The significance: Two kinds of people believed: man vs. woman, upper echelon vs. unknown, Greek vs. unknown.
 - D. Paul's message was tailor made for secular people far from Christ.

4. ***APPLICATION – In communicating the gospel, passionately hold to the unchanging truth, but share that truth in a culturally relevant way.***