

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 11:19-30 - Christian In Word & Deed - 01.19.2025

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever experienced a situation that was BETTER than you'd expected going into it?
What caused you to come into that situation with the limited expectations that you had?
What specifically about that situation exceeded your expectations?
3. How does the unfolding narrative in Acts continue to reveal that God's plans for the Church exceed human expectations?
How specifically is the Lord at work to expand, build-up, & likely exceed expectations of many as evidenced in Acts 11:19-30?
What is the evidence of His work in Antioch, and why is this so significant historically (in conjunction with Acts 10 & 11:1-18)?
Where in Scripture does Jesus testify to the fact that the Gospel is not just limited to Abraham's ethnic descendants?
How does this reality make the unity exhibited in the Church all the more revealing of the amazing love of God?
4. How does bearing the name of Christ (as a "Christian") change how you live your life?
Why does identification with Christ override all other identities we might be tempted to claim?
As you evaluate how you're living your life, is your identification with Christ evident as your primary identity in life?
Are there other specific "identities" that you're placing before Christ rather than keeping Christ above all else?
5. I shared John 13:34-35 for the benediction (see below) - how does this relate to the actions of the church in Acts 11:19-30?
³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*
³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*
What are some tangible ways that the Lord is calling you to BETTER show His love in your actions/interactions with others?
6. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
In Antioch, the disciples were first called Christians.
WHAT WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRISTIANS?
 1. A willing & public identification with Christ!
Our overriding identity is in Jesus!
 2. A willing & public association with each other!
We're united to one another in Jesus!
 3. A genuine/sacrificial love for one another!
Our love goes beyond words & into works!