



CHURCH & CULTURE & GPS.

Do you know how a GPS works? It knows where you are and you tell it where you want to go. Hopefully, you seamlessly get to your destination. Aren't you glad it doesn't go in reverse? You don't have to start with where your goal is and work your way backwards? It's much easier to start right where you are.

When we do evangelism, we need the same principle. It's tempting to begin at the resurrected Lord and go from there. Instead, we should start where they are. You think the Bible is authoritative? Good. Do they? If they don't, where are you going to start? Can you be a GPS of sorts for someone else to get them from where they are to the Lord?

IN THE BIBLE.

Acts 17:16-34

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the

resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the

Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

1 Cor. 9:22

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) To kick things off, any GPS horror stories?
- 2.) Do you think it is important to share your faith? Why or why not?
- 3.) How do you/could you start sharing your faith with people who don't yet believe in Jesus?
- 4.) What does it look like to "engage culture?"

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?