

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Gospel Fluency
TITLE: Gospel & Culture - Part 2
SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:16-34
DATE: June 11, 2017
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The word Gospel simply means Good News. When we read the word Gospel in the Bible and in most other places, we know that it is referring to the Good News about Jesus. The idea of fluency is used most often in relation to being able to speak two or more languages. Yet the word fluent means to be able to express oneself easily and articulately not necessarily just in foreign languages. Meaning when we talk about Gospel Fluency this summer, we are talking about being able to express and communicate the Good News about Jesus easily and articulately to yourself and others.

Lead in — The idea that God steps toward people not away from them is a radical one. The majority of teaching taking place in churches regarding culture is to step back from and move away from people who think, believe, act, and live differently than us. Yet this “moving-away-kind-of-movement” is directly contrary to the movement of God. As a community of grace, passionately pursuing life and mission with Jesus; we must understand that God moves toward us, so we can move toward others. People like us as well as people not like us.

But what do we do once we have decided to move toward people and culture?

I. Start Where You Are

- A. Engage Your Every Day
 - a. Acts 17:16-18
 - b. Everywhere and anywhere you go, move toward people starting where you are.
- B. Go Where You Are Invited
 - a. Acts 17:19-20
 - b. Invitations are Opportunities for Transformations.

II. Start Where They Are

- A. Find Common Ground
 - a. Acts 17:22-23
 - b. Establish common ground with people, because the Gospel is not restricted to where it can enter the conversation.
- B. Begin a Conversation
 - a. Acts 17:23-34

- b. Gospel Fluency is worked out through conversations that lead to other conversations that lead to other conversations.
- III. What's Stopping You
- A. Superiority
 - a. Romans 5:8: *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - b. May the idea of superiority be crushed under the weight of the Gospel.
 - B. Fear
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:5: *Do the work of an evangelist.*
 - b. Fear is squashed under the weight of victory.

Response: So with the Gospel as our hope and our light may we move toward unlikely people for Christ, and In Christ Alone, with Gospel Fluency.

For Discussion —

1. Share a time that you have moved away from a person due to their beliefs, lifestyle, or choices?
2. Where can you start moving toward people today?
3. What do you need to do in order to be able to start a conversation with people where they are in life and belief?
4. How has the germ of superiority kept you from stepping toward unlikely people?
5. How has fear restricted your ability to be an evangelist, and movement toward other people?