

**Developing Habits That Will Change Our Church:  
The Habit of Engaging: Acts 17  
Acts 17:13-34 (page 770)**

**Sunday, November 29, 2009**

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State of the Church

1. Profile of Christians as seen by America
  - a. I n t o l e r a n t
  - b. C o n v e r t at all costs
  - c. "K n o w i t a l l s"
  - d. E l i t i s t s

What I can learn from Paul's example (Acts 17:13-34)

1. Engaging people means I need to go w h e r e p e o p l e a r e.  
Christians need to think of their lives as a m i s s i o n.
2. Engaging people means that I am to be a student of my community.
  - a. I am to identify people's m i s u n d e r s t a n d i n g s.
  - b. I am to identify people's n e e d s.
  - c. I am to identify people's w o r l d v i e w. (one's personal stance)
  - d. I am to identify a m e t h o d to engage.
3. Engaging my community means being s e n s i t i v e to who t h e y a r e.
  - a. When I make statements, they should be t i m e l y.
  - b. My statements should point them to an a n s w e r.
  - c. Engaging is not a o n e t i m e e v e n t.

Now what...

1. The two perceptions

<b>Christian</b>	<b>UnChristian</b>
Elitist	Open: I do not have a set of beliefs.
No Grace	There is no 100%: there is no such thing as a guaranteed truth.
Intolerant	Everyone has problems so why try and change.
Convert at all costs	Loves Experience: why should I commit to one thing?
Know it all	Authentic: lets embrace our baggage.

2. How to become an Engaging Christian:
  - a. Learn people's v i e w by a s k i n g questions.
  - b. Anticipate, know what people n e e d before they do.
  - c. Make it your goal to become an i n v i t e d g u e s t.
  - d. Expect others to ask questions...w e l c o m e i t!