

Church is not normal

Walls - It takes more than one wall to make a building,

Week 3

1. Acts 11. and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
2. Context – Our Bible reading.

Acts 11:19-26

3. Scenario

People sharing Jesus and to non Jews (hellenists)

Church sent people to find out what's going on

Barnabas saw "The grace of God"

Told them to be faithful

People became Christians

Barnabas goes to find Paul (Saul)

Takes him to church where Saul stays for a year (and you think I do long sermons)

Followers of Jesus called Christians for the first time – Christian means like Christ.

Ok there is the scenario, that's the story. How does that feed into our concept of church?

Well this passage is about discipleship. (Next years focus topic)

Discipleship is helping someone to follow Jesus. Part of it is strengthening their faith.

How do we strengthen a church?

Well we have some clues here. Let's revisit the original verse.

Act 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

1. Why stay a year? This is basically saying spend time with the church.

A couple of things we can glean from this.

- A. Barnabas took him. Barnabas took an enough interest in Saul to take him on the journey, not just leave him to his own devices.
 - B. A whole year. An extended period of time to learn but also to see and experience what the church was on about.
 - C. THEY taught. The assumption here is that Barnabas, and others then along with Saul did the teaching. A group of teachers, a group of people who can see each others styles and correct theology etc. It is a preaching mentoring situation.
2. What was taught? Well we don't exactly know. But we glean some thing from the previous passage and others.

Act 11:20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Act 11:23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,

The grace of God. – You got to be happy with that.

And what Paul passes on further down the track.

1 Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Co 15:4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1Co 15:5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1Co 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1Co 15:8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

They taught – they learnt what they received.

Greek word here is didaskō and it has the feeling that they not only heard but took it in, **learnt it fully.**

What strengthens a church – being taught about Jesus. Knowing about Jesus fully.

And notice that it gets you a reputation. They were called Christians for the first time. Why is this significant? Because they were like Christ.

Are we Christians – like Christ?

Welded church (Frame only) Jayson