

# DNA of a Growing Church

## Reading- Acts 17.16-32



### Introduction

In this final session in our series we have the Apostle Paul visiting Athens. Athens was, of course, the centre of Greek philosophy and the people loved nothing more than a good debate. As Paul walks around Athens he is greatly disturbed by the idolatry he encounters. In his thinking and apologetics he enters into the mindset of the culture. He quotes their poets and refers to the statue of the Unknown God. He relates to the culture of the day and he presents the Gospel with relevance.

In his message to them he offers them a new starting point in life. They loved to discuss the meaning of life and now he tells them that their Unknown God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus. He's the author of life and the one that gives meaning and purpose to all who would put their faith in him. Paul also concentrates on Jesus and his resurrection. He speaks of death and judgment and calls them to repentance.

So the DNA of a Growing Church today must be our relevance to the culture of the Age. We cannot expect people to hear the message of the Gospel if we present it in a way that is foreign and irrelevant to them. God is still the one who gives meaning and purpose to life and offers eternal life to all who would turn to him. The truth of the message is the same but it needs to be presented in a culturally relevant way.

### Discussion Starters

.What especially speaks to you from the story of Paul in Athens? What would you say is the relevance of it for our lives today?

.If Paul was to walk around our community what do you think he might be disturbed by now? What are the idols of today?

.We notice the way in which Paul speaks to them, quoting their poets and referring to their statues. What might we use from the culture of our day to relevantly reach out to people?

.How would you summarise the DNA of a Growing Church? What aspects are especially important for OBC?

### Prayer time

Please do pray for needs that are known or shared. Please also pray for our outreach that we might be culturally relevant without watering down the challenge of the Gospel.

Rev Martyn Travers