



ACTS

CHRIST BUILDS
HIS CHURCH

A Test of Gospel Unity | Acts 11:19-30

MAIN POINT

Gospel unity is tested by how churches respond to the needs of one another.





Antioch: A Church Needing Spiritual Encouragement (19-26)



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Antioch: A Church Needing Spiritual Encouragement (19-26)



Jerusalem: A Church Needing Financial Reinforcement (27-30)

POINTS TO PONDER

1.

The gospel often
advances through
humble servants

POINTS TO PONDER

2

Local churches
should be partners
not competitors

POINTS TO PONDER

3.

Is the hand of the
Lord upon us?

APPLICATION

Let us love not in word or talk
but in deed and truth.
(1 John 3:18)



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EPHESIANS

“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER.”

3:20-21

— Today's Sermon ————— 8-16-26 —

“A Test of Gospel Unity”
Acts 11:19-30 – Pastor Scott Gnuse

Main point: Gospel unity is tested by how churches respond to the needs of one another.

Antioch: A Church Needing Spiritual Encouragement (19-26)

Jerusalem: A Church Needing Financial Reinforcement (27-30)

Points to Ponder

Application: Let us love not in word or talk but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18)

Growing Deeper

1. Why was it important for the church in Jerusalem to respond to the growing spiritual needs of the church in Antioch? Why would it have been dangerous for them to do nothing? What message might that have sent?
2. Is there any significance to believers first being called 'Christians' at Antioch? Why might this title be special considering the circumstances surrounding the origin and makeup of this church?
3. How did today's passage shape your perspective on church partnerships? How does a sense of competition between churches destroy gospel unity?
4. What can you learn from the ministry example of Barnabas? How does his character facilitate and cultivate true gospel unity? How do his actions impact the rest of the book of Acts?

Heart Preparation: Prepare your heart for worship on 08/23 by reading and meditating on Acts 12:1-25.

Prayer Prompt: Heavenly Father, thank you for establishing local churches all across this earth. Help me to guard my heart and mind from any sense of selfish pride or vain competition. May I be an advocate for gospel unity and church partnership here in Central Illinois and in all the earth. Amen!

Reaching Farther

Family: As a family, talk about what it means to be a Christian. Your kids might be surprised to know that the Bible only uses the term "Christian" a total of three times (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). Ask them if they know of any other words the Bible uses that are more common than "Christian"?

Community: Consider getting a list of our current GO Partners and/or church partners. Begin a regular habit of praying for their ongoing gospel ministry. You can even reach out directly to ask for prayer requests or ways you can be an encouragement to them.