

# MESSAGE NOTES

“Rules of Engagement”  
(Text: Acts 17:16-34)

Joel Cogdell  
Crossroads Christian Church  
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## PAUL’S RULES FOR ENGAGING CULTURE WITH THE GOSPEL

1. \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_.

“... his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.” – Acts 17:16

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

“Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.” – Acts 17:22

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything.” – Acts 17:24-25a

4. \_\_\_\_\_.

“... since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” – Acts 17:25b

5. \_\_\_\_\_.

“... and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” – Acts 17:31

## THREE REACTIONS

1. Some \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Others were \_\_\_\_\_ and wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ more.

3. Some \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_.

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# CONNECT GROUP HOMEWORK

For the week of March 3.

## GETTING STARTED \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you find it easier to discuss spiritual things with people you know or with strangers? Why do you think this is?

2. What are some ineffective ways you've seen people share their faith? What are some effective ways?

## DIGGING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

1. In our culture, what do you think are the biggest questions in life people are asking?

According to the Bible, how does Christianity answer some of life's biggest questions?

- Origin – where did I come from? (**Genesis 2:7; Ephesians 2:10**)
- Meaning – why am I here? (**Isaiah 43:7**)
- Morality – how should I live? (**Ecclesiastes 12:13; 2 Timothy 3:16**)
- Destiny – where am I going? (**Matthew 25:46; John 5:24**)

2. Read **Acts 17:16**. While modern-day idolatry may not look like making sacrifices in front of different statues, that doesn't mean idolatry doesn't exist. What are the dominant idols of our culture?

How do you know if something has become an idol in your life?

3. Read **1 John 2:15** and **1 Corinthians 9:22**. What do these verses teach us about cultural engagement?

How can we engage culture without embracing idolatry?

What will happen if we refuse to understand and engage our culture with the Gospel?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is someone you interact with regularly who believes differently than you?
2. What are some ways we can reach those who look, act and believe differently than us?