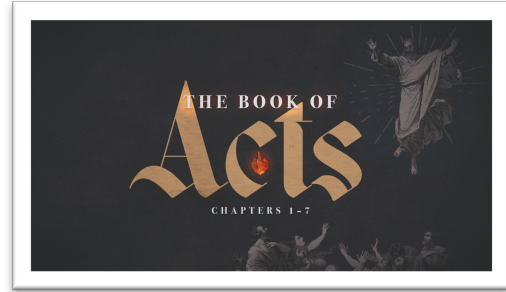


SO THE CHURCH

ACTS 9:19b-31 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
OCT 24, 2021



I expect my church to preach Jesus faithfully (9:19b-22), face opposition bravely (9:23-25, 29-30), resolve issues kindly (9:26-28), and grow disciples deeply (9:31).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you grow up to expect from church?
2. **Paul's preaching was controversial to his Pharisaical peers. "Jesus is the Son of God" sounded like blasphemy to unbelieving ears. Barnabas supported and helped Paul prepare to preach a controversial message.** What support does your church give to evangelists and missionaries who work in hostile areas?
3. If you could invest more personal time, money, or effort into evangelism, what would do to help get the message about Jesus to more people?
4. **Modern church comforts (i.e., nice facilities, lots of activities, a slick website, etc.) could be distracting people from looking to Jesus and fulfilling his mission.** How can you determine if comfort has become too high a priority in your life? Why is this kind of introspection necessary even for healthy churches?
5. **"The Christian life, lived biblically, invites opposition."** How have you found this to be true?

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6. What effect has opposition to the Gospel had on the way you live and share your faith? (*I.e., Have you become mean or confrontational in your preaching? Have you shrunk back and muted your faith?*)

7. **Barnabas was instrumental in reconciling Paul to the church he violently persecuted. First, he had to get know Paul better. This relationship began without knowing how far reconciliation would go.** What kind of issues do you think Barnabas' relationship with Paul resolved for the church?

What can you draw out of this passage in terms of an example to follow regarding advocacy for new believers within the church?

8. **Read one of these accounts of the Parable of the Sower; Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, or Luke 8:4-15.** What prevents God's word from rooting deeply in a person's heart?

What help do you expect from the church as you attempt to grow deeply as disciple?