



The Age of Confusion

Russel Johnson

God intends for the Church to stand as a pillar of truth in society – but when the Church loses her voice, the world loses its mind. Today's society is drowning in confusion because too many believers hesitate to make waves and speak truth against the lies of culture.

In Acts 17, Paul boldly proclaims Christ in the public square of Athens. After debating with scholars about the truth of the gospel, he is taken to the Areopagus, a governing body like today's Supreme Court. ***His message offended his audience because he proclaimed the exclusivity of Christ.***

Ancient Rome thrived in pluralism, worshipping over 3,100 deities, including the Emperor. But Paul preached an objective truth – *that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him. (John 14:6)* This was the greatest offense a person could make in Paul's cultural context, and it remains the same today. When Paul proclaimed that Jesus is Lord, he simultaneously proclaimed that Caesar was not. When he said that the gospel was the hope of humanity, he simultaneously said that government wasn't. When he said that Jesus was everything a person needs for the abundant life God intends, he simultaneously said that all the philosophies and wisdom and trends of the world were not.

Paul boldly proclaimed life-giving truth in a culture that accepted everything except truth. But for those who responded in Faith, they found clarity and hope in the arms of Christ. They stepped out of confusion and disappointment into the truth of the gospel. And the same can happen today, if only the Church regains her voice and proclaims the truth.

Reflection Questions

1. What are some issues or areas where the Church, and specifically you as a church leader, need to speak up more boldly to bring clarity into our confused culture?
2. How can you model what Paul did in Acts 17, relating the gospel to the contexts that people understand and showing how God's truth is timeless and applicable in every cultural context?