

What To Do When Surrounded

(Acts 17:16-34)

- Introduction:
1. We are a society of euphemisms.
 - a. Housewife - domestic engineer.
 - b. Failed in school - achieved a deficiency.
 - c. A career change opportunity - you're fired.
 - d. Surrounded - in a target rich environment.
 2. In Acts 17, Paul was in a "target rich environment."
 3. And quite frankly we find ourselves dispersed among people who don't embrace our values or our Lord.
 4. So, how should we respond?

I. Our Spirit's Should Be Provoked

- A. (Acts 17:16).
- B. Provoked, doesn't imply anger, but the word means to be stirred (Heb. 10:24).
- C. Don't grow accustomed to the world (Romans 12:2).
- D. Don't allow yourself to be desensitized to immorality.
- E. Be able to blush (Jeremiah 6:15).

II. We Must Be Provoked Enough To Speak

- A. (Acts 17:17).
- B. We cannot remain silent (2 Kings 7:9).
- C. (2 Corinthians 4:13) We believe, therefore we speak.
- D. How we speak, the forum or medium we use doesn't matter - speak!
- E. (1 Corinthians 15:34).

III. Speak Kindly, But Pointedly

- A. (Acts 17:22-31).
- B. Consider Paul's kind, but pointed speech.
 1. You're religious - but that's not good enough (Acts 17:22).
 2. You're zealous - but your ignorant (Acts 17:23).
 3. In the past, men got a "pass" - today, they face judgment (Acts 17:30-31).

IV. Be Content With Your Faithfulness

- A. (Acts 17:32-34).
- B. I know we would love to have success, but we must learn to be content to faithfulness (2 Corinthians 4:2-3).
- C. We plant and water, God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

- Conclusion:
1. At this very moment, we're surrounded by the people of God, but tomorrow, many of us will be surrounded by the world.
 2. Pray for, and seek opportunities to do the same as Paul.