



Jesus
**MOVE
MENT**

GOD'S PEOPLE UNITED

**DR. BRIAN BENNETT
LEAD PASTOR**



SERMON NOTES
PATHWAYVB.COM/FYI

THIS or THAT

**Our preferences can get in the
way of God's presence and plans.**

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, 3 "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

ACTS
11:1-3 ESV

We can make a "god" out of our preferences and miss God's presence.

ACTS 11:1-18; GALATIANS 2:11-13 ESV

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

GALATIANS
2:11-13 ESV

13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

**GALATIANS
2:11-13 ESV**

The overly critical typically want control and don't like change.

A large, stylized blue opening quotation mark.

The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.

G.K. Chesterton

A large, stylized blue closing quotation mark.

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I

ACTS
11:15-18 ESV

that I could stand in God's way?" 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

ACTS
11:15-18 ESV

Issues are debatable,
but God's will is undeniable.

**Are you standing in God's way
or following His way?**

Three lessons the early church learned:

- Some changes are inevitable.
- Any change requires adjustment.
- Every change must be examined in light of Scripture.

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of

ACTS
11:19-25 ESV

the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,

ACTS
11:19-25 ESV

24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

ACTS
11:19-25 ESV

The people God uses choose His presence over their preferences.

ACTS 11:19-26; ROMANS 8:14-17 ESV

God works in and through
people according to His plans.



SERMON NOTES
PATHWAYVB.COM/FYI



SERMON NOTES

June 23, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Jesus Movement: "Presence over Preference"

[Acts 11]

Jesus Movement: "Presence over Preference"

[Acts 11]

We can make a "god" out of our _____ and miss God's _____

[Acts 11:1-18; Galatians 2:11-13]

- The overly _____ typically want _____ and don't like _____.
- Issues can be _____, but God's will be _____.

The people God uses choose His _____ over their _____.

[Acts 11:19-26; Romans 8:14-17]

- God works _____ people according to His plans.
- What made them "Christian"?
 - _____ leading to life. (Acts 11:18)
 - _____ Christ. (Acts 11:26)
 - The _____ of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 11:15; 21)
 - _____ among the people of God. (Acts 11:22-24; 13:1-2).

Jesus MOVEMENT



Pathway Group Discussion Questions:

Note: 1, 9-10 are general questions asked at Pathway weekly.

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. Pastor Brian said, "Our preferences can get in the way of God's presence and plans". Do you agree? Explain.
3. Read Acts 11:1-18. What were the issues they were criticizing and debating?
4. Are there any "gods" you have made from your preferences that might be "standing the way of God's presence and plans" (Acts 11:17)?
5. In Acts 11:17-18 we see the words for belief (Greek "pistis") and "repentance" (Greek "metanoia"). The depth of these words means to "place our lives in" and "to turn away from our ability". How does our faith in Christ invite us to truly let go and trust Him with a new way of life?
6. Pathway's goal for 2024-25 is: "digging deeper and building a bigger people in Christ". How does this help focus us a church right now on Jesus and discipleship? What does that mean for this group? What kind of "changes" might happen as this unfolds?
7. Pastor Brian quoted Charles Swindoll and three lessons on change the early church demonstrated. See below and discuss their meaning for us:

"Three lessons the early church learned:

- Some changes are inevitable.
- Any change requires adjustment.
- Every change must be examined in light of Scripture."

(Charles Swindoll).

8. Read Acts 11:19-26. Discuss the closing points of the message and what it means to truly be used by God and be a Christian.
9. How did you answer the "next step questions" from the message?
10. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

Note for life group leaders: if you need additional support or resources due to the depth of the verses and topics covered don't hesitate to reach out: zorom@pathwayvb.com

[Visit the Pathway Church Calendar - Click Here](#)

And when he had found him,
he brought him to Antioch.
For a whole year they met
with the church and taught a
great many people. And in
Antioch the disciples were
first called Christians.

ACTS
11:26 ESV

What made them "Christian"?

- Repentance leading to life. ACTS 11:18
- Following Christ. ACTS 11:26
- The presence of the Holy Spirit. ACTS 11:15; 21
- Unity among the people of God. ACTS 11:22-24; 13:1-2

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

ACTS
13:1-2 ESV

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

ROMANS
8:14-17 ESV

17 and if children, then heirs—
heirs of God and fellow heirs
with Christ, provided we suffer
with him in order that we may
also be glorified with him.

ROMANS
8:14-17 ESV

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

1

Will you choose God's presence over your preferences?

2

Will you embrace any changes God is leading in your life or the life of our church?

3

Will you live as a "Christian" by: repenting regularly, following Christ's way, seeking His presence, and promoting unity among the people of God?



Jesus
**MOVE
MENT**

GOD'S PEOPLE UNITED

**DR. BRIAN BENNETT
LEAD PASTOR**