

The First Great Gentile Church: God's Pattern for All Churches

Acts 11: 19–30

1 *The church was born*

- a. Born through witnessing and sharing
- b. Born by sharing Christ with all: Gentile as well as Jew
- c. Born through the Lord's hand

2 *The church was followed up and taught*

- a. A mother church showed interest
- b. A missionary disciple was commissioned
 - 1) His ministry:
Exhortation – building up
 - 2) His character
- c. A tremendous result:
Many brought to the Lord

3 *The church sought after additional teaching staff*

- a. Had to seek
- b. Did find

4 *The church met consistently for intensive training*

5 *The church developed an unbelievable heritage — for itself and for Christ: Called Christians*

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.

20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

26 And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

**6 *The church launched
its own worldwide mission***

a. A prophecy of great need

b. A sharing of money —
each according to his ability

c. A sharing of ministers

27 During this time some prophets came down
from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 One of them, named Agabus,
stood up and through the Spirit predicted
that a severe famine would spread
over the entire Roman world.
(This happened during the reign of Claudius.)

29 The disciples,
each according to his ability,
decided to provide
help for the brothers living in Judea.

30 This they did,
sending their gift to the elders
by Barnabas and Saul.