

MYTHBUSTERS
“The Arrogant Church”
September 7, 2008
Pastor Michael Lee
Acts 17:16-34 (ESV)

TODAY’S RELIGIOUS CULTURE

1. It is a **post-Christian** culture
2. Christianity is **not the only choice**
3. It holds to **pluralistic beliefs**
4. Christians come across as naïve and arrogant because they are **ignorant about the religions they reject**

ACTS 17 RESPONSE TO A POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE

1. Be **sensitive** to and **respectful** of other religious beliefs (vv. 16, 22)
2. **Gain an understanding** of other religious beliefs (vv. 23, 28)
3. **Hold fast** to your own Christian convictions (vv. 24-31)

Going Deeper into the Message

1. Share a recent conversation you’ve had about religion with someone of a different faith. What happened? What did you talk about? How did you perceive that person and how did that person perceive you?
2. Which characteristics of “Today’s Religious Culture” have you observed in our culture? Share specific examples.
3. Carefully read Acts 17:16-34. How did Paul feel about all the idols he saw in Athens? Considering your answer, why do you think Paul acknowledge their religiousness with such respect in verses 22-23?
4. What does it mean for Paul to “observed the objects of your worship” (v. 23)? What was he doing? What would be the equivalent for Christians today as it relates to other world religions?
5. Verse 28 contains a quote about a god (Zeus) in Greek philosophy. Does Paul mean Zeus is the one true God? What do you feel Paul means by using Zeus to explain God?
6. In verses 24-31, Paul presents straight-forward teaching about the one true God. How would you characterize his teaching about God?
7. Considering your answers to questions 2-4, what can Paul’s example in these Scriptures teach you about treating people of other beliefs and faiths?

Responding to the Message

8. What one insight from the message seems most personally significant to you right now and what action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice or to cooperate with God in bringing about this transformation?

CENTRAL TRUTH:

The church is to be respectful of other people’s beliefs and faiths.