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THE BEREANS

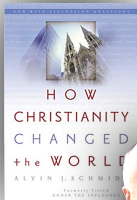
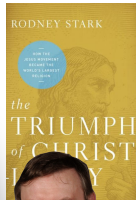
ACTS 17:11


Colossians 4:10-18
Lesson #14
Gracious family
04/26/2026


1

How did Christianity spread?

- Its unique message
- Its breadth of outreach
- Its response to suffering



Alvin J. Schmidt Rodney Stark Bart Ehrman

2

Philippians 2

“12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always **obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

One of the strongest argument for the Christian Faith

is the power of the Gospel message **as it speaks to the core of the human soul's deep longing for serenity, significance, security, and survival.**

3

The Christian narrative addresses “core of Life” Questions like:

- **Mortality** - Why do we die?
- **Meaning** - Why do we seek to live?
- **Morality** - Why is there “right” & “wrong”?
- **Misery** - Why do humans commit suicide?
- **Mysticism** - Why is religion so common?
- **Mankind** - Why are humans so unique?

4

Another of God's tools in bringing people to faith in Christ is a church that is bringing people to maturity in Christ - helping people be true to themselves in bearing the Image of God.

A heathy faith is:

- ✓ **Rationally** convincing.
- ✓ **Emotionally** moving.
- ✓ **Morally** transforming.
- ✓ **Spiritually** satisfying.
- ✓ **Culturally** inspiring.
- ✓ **Socially** connecting.




5

Spiritual Formation

Live a life of service / worship

Give yourself

Be true to yourself

Don't kill your appetite for spiritual food by stuffing up with junk food.

Get over yourself

Be in touch with the deepest longings of your soul

Identify yourself with Christ.

Accept yourself

Know yourself

6

Another of God's tools in bringing people to faith in Christ is a **diverse, loving, community.**

John 13:35

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, **if you have love for one another.**"

Agape love is not a gift, it is a credential and a sign.

- It **IDs** us as Christians.
- It **assures** us of union with Christ.
- It authenticates our **witness** to the Gospel.

7

John 17:21

"...that they may all be one... so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Without charity (agape), civility, cooperation, and compassion, community is crippled.



8

love **one another** (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
 be devoted to **one another** (Romans 12:10)
 honor **one another** above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
 live in harmony with **one another** (Romans 12:16)
 build up **one another** (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 be likeminded towards **one another** (Romans 15:5)
 accept **one another** (Romans 15:7)
 admonish **one another** (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
 care for **one another** (1 Corinthians 12:25)
 serve **one another** (Galatians 5:13)
 bear **one another's** burdens (Galatians 6:2)
 forgive **one another** (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
 be patient with **one another** (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
 be kind and compassionate to **one another** (Ephesians 4:32)
 speak to **one another** with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
 submit to **one another** (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
 consider **others** better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
 look to the interests of **one another** (Philippians 2:4)
 bear with **one another** (Colossians 3:13)
 teach **one another** (Colossians 3:16)
 comfort **one another** (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
 encourage **one another** (Hebrews 3:13)
 stir up **one another** to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
 show hospitality to **one another** (1 Peter 4:9)
 employ gifts from God for the benefit of **one another** (1 Peter 4:10)
 clothe yourselves with humility towards **one another** (1 Peter 5:5)
 pray for **one another** (James 5:16)
 confess our faults to **one another** (James 5:16)

According to Jesus, the greatest commands, on which, all the others depend, are concerned with relationships, with God and one another
 (Matthew 22:36-40)

Ministering with and to one another is not a distraction from the main thing, it is a part of the main thing.

9

Paul's love for "one another" on display

Colossians 4

"10 **Aristarchus**, my fellow prisoner, sends you his **greetings**; and also Barnabas' cousin **Mark** (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him); 11 and also Jesus who is called **Justus**; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision; and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

Showing humility and grace to others.

12 **Epaphras**, who is one of your number, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Acknowledging the universal church

14 **Luke**, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also **Demas**. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also **Nympha** and the church that is in her house.

Recognizing other's contributions

16 And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. 17 And say to **Archippus**, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Affirming Apostolic teaching

18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember **my imprisonment**. Grace be with you."

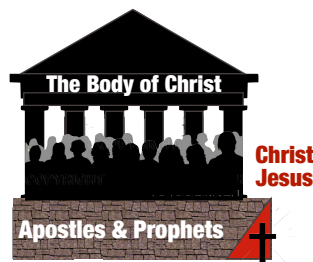
Modeling patience in the midst of bad circumstances

10

Ephesians 2:20-21

"having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord."

The epistles of the New Testament (Apostolic teachings) are the foundation of Christian theology.



11

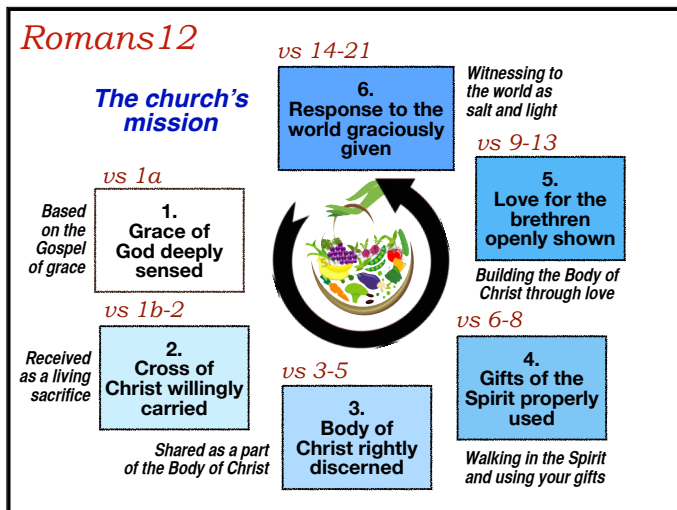
The Apostle's letters tell us how to be the Body of Christ. The church's mission is spelled out in Eph.4 and Rom.12.

Ephesians 4

"11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the **work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ**; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

One of the most powerful witnesses to the Gospel is a Spiritually filled Body of Christ.

12



13

Romans 12

“14 **Bless those who persecute you**; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind **toward one another**; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men**. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**”

14

Another tool that God uses in bringing people to faith in Christ is the bold, sensitive, and respectful way His people share the Gospel story.

1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being **ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

15

A third tool in bringing people to faith in Christ is the way disciples of Christ respond to the ups and downs of life in a broken world.

2 Corinthians 12:10

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

16

Galatians 6:2

“Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

Bearing one another’s burdens may mean that we be a part of God’s answer to someone else’s prayer.

It may also lead them to Christ.

17



18



Popular

- Current Lesson: Colossians
- Current Series: Colossians
- Next Lesson
- Previous Series: Hard Questions 2025

Intro to the New Testament

- Current Lesson
- Series
- Next Lesson

Search

Introduction to the New Testament

(01) A New Addition

- Understanding Apostolic Teaching is key to understanding Christianity.*
1. Christianity cannot be reduced to ethical piety, vocational vocation, or social justice.
 2. Anything built is rooted in moral virtue, but not our own.
 3. The New Testament is not a building down on the G.C. Law but fulfilling its demands.
 4. The whole Bible is written FOR us, but not always TO or ABOUT us.
 5. God's deliverance is motivated by love not law.



LISTEN



WATCH