

The Book Of Acts - Chapter 4
HOW TO BE UNPOPULAR IN ANY CULTURE
Dr. Larry Lamb – July 21, 2019

“The most important individual thing for man is man himself.”

Francis A. Schaeffer

Acts 4.1-4 *While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. ² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. ⁴ But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.*

- 1) The Priests – Tasked with keeping the Law.
- 2) The Temple Guard – The chief of police for the Temple (the place of worship).
- 3) Sadducees – Well connected politically and highly wealthy. They denied the resurrection and anything supernatural. Controlled by Rome.
- 4) Annas – The real ruler of the Temple. The godfather of the religious groups.
- 5) Caiaphas – Son-in-law to Annas. It was his idea to kill Jesus.
- 6) John – probably the son of Annas.
- 7) Alexander – some relative of Annas.
- 8) Other relatives.

Acts 4.8-12 *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ ¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”*

Acts 4.13 *The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.*

BOLDNESS MEANS: We will probably be **MISUNDERSTOOD** . We will engage the culture at various times, over different cultural idols, and be discriminated against because of falsely viewed as intolerant.

“When we become so tolerant that we lead people into mental fog and spiritual darkness, we are not acting like Christians – we are acting like cowards.” A.W. Tozer

- Stop trying to be accepted by the culture. People who long to be accepted end up making compromises in life.
- The culture’s message is this: *Christians must be tolerant of our beliefs and intolerance will not be tolerated.*

Acts 4 – Comply and compromise your religious values or stand firmly on your biblical convictions.

2019 – Comply and compromise your religious values or stand firmly on your biblical convictions.

- Here’s the attitude: You will comply or have the full weight of public opinion leveraged against you, your church, your business, and your employment.
- No sin ever gets declassified because of the adverse Theophobic nature of some people who are intolerant of God’s standard.
- If we please God, it doesn’t matter who we displease; if we displease God, it doesn’t matter who we please.

A QUESTION WE SHOULD ANSWER

Am I a cultural Christian who lives like an atheist or am I a biblical Christian who loves all people and defaults to the authority of the WORD of God?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned, and I choose to invite You into my life today. I repent of my sin, and by doing this, I want You to be the Lord (Master) of my life. I know that Your gift to me is free, and I can do nothing to earn eternal life. Thank You for dying for my sins. Amen.

RESOURCES:

- > *HOW NOW SHALL WE LIVE* by Charles Colson
- > *HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE* by Francis A. Schaeffer
- > *MAMA BEAR APOLOGETICS* by Hillary Morgan Ferrer
- > *THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE* by Josh & Sean McDowell
- > *THE REASON FOR GOD* by Timothy Keller
- > *THINK BIBLICALLY* by John MacArthur