

**Text | Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-3**  
**Title | Gospel Church...**

1. An Irrepressible Gospel Shapes an Irrepressible People
  - A. Not broken by persecution
  - B. Not changed by “success”
2. The Spirit Forms a People Open to His Leading
  - A. In prophecy
  - B. In people
  - C. In sacrifice
  - D. For the advance of the Announcement

Opening slides are the text itself

Slide 5:

Despite persecution (and because of it), the gospel shaped the church...

- always announcing the “word become flesh” who is King/Messiah
- with an “oops!” that brought about a “success problem”
- then dealing with success Biblically (apostolic ally)

Slide 6:

The Spirit Forms a People

- leveraging Barnabas' sweet spirit
- learning from his open heart
- shaped by his wisdom about people

Slide 7:

The Spirit Forms a People (con't)

- who respond to prophecy
- with radical others-centered love
- and willingness to adapt their community to reach others

Slide 8

In Antioch they were first called “Christians”

We still are.

## Discussion Questions for Community Groups

1. As a review of the message and text, simply identify the things in Acts 11:19-33 and 13:1-3 that struck you the most. Why?

2. The great missionary to India, Lesslie Newbigin, once said that there are really only 2 kinds of churches.

1. "Affinity" churches that focus most of our time, attention, and resources on ourselves and our children and on the things (doctrines, location, culture, style) that bring "us" together and mark us as distinct.

2. "Missional" churches that always have their eye on people outside our church, that always are "on mission" to reach them, no matter what adjustments are necessary in the local ministry and in our personal lives. Antioch would be an example of such a church, obviously.

What do you think about Newbigin's statement? How would you apply it to yourself, to your community group, to Eternal Church?

3. Do you believe Eternal (and you) are open to the Spirit's leading in our life and ministry? What strikes you about how the Spirit directed the Antioch church? If the Spirit's purpose is to bring glory to God through the advance of the gospel, his leading might involve persecution (as it did here). It will certainly lead us into uncomfortable circumstances. Are you ok with that? Talk about it.

**4. It must have impacted the Antioch church greatly to send both Barnabas and Saul away, permanently. Deploying resources like that was crucial to gospel advancement. OK, here's a parallel: Our church is built on Community Groups, and, difficult as it is, expects our Community Groups to grow and divide regularly in order to reach more and more people who are outside of Christ.**

Are you OK with that? Pray about it in your meeting.