



The Beauty of Community

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Josh Macha

Acts 17:24-33 - 24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” 33 At that, Paul left the Council.

Three ways the community of the church is a beautiful witness of the "unknown" God

1. Know **Why** We're Here - Omnipotent Invitation - v26-27

2. Believe **Who** We Are - For in him we live and move and have our being - v28

3. Choose **How** to Be - Depth over increase - v29-31

With God's help we need to break through our illusions and see ourselves as we truly are in relation to God. A complete knowing of our self in relation to God includes knowing three things: our self as deeply loved, our self as deeply sinful, and our self as in a process of being redeemed and restored. Facing these deep truths about ourselves makes it possible for us to accept and know ourselves as we are accepted and known by God.

-David G. Benner, *The Gift of Being Yourself*