



PINELLAS COMMUNITY CHURCH MESSAGE NOTES

November 29, 2009

Speaker: Mike Conaway
Maturity Pastor

Series: iconversations

Title: Above the Influence

Quotes to Consider:

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." – Author Unknown

"It is not what you say it is how you say it." - Author Unknown

We can be passionate about our beliefs however we must be equally COMPASSIONATE toward people if we want them to HEAR us.

We give away our INFLUENCE when we are so concerned about being RIGHT that we cease to hear what others are saying.

Acts 17:16-34 (English Standard Version)

16Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities" because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." 21Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. 22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one

man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28for 'In him we live and move and have our being';[b]as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'" 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." 32Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." 33So Paul went out from their midst. 34But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Our passion for CHRIST must never supersede our compassion for PEOPLE.

DON'T MISS THIS:

- Paul got the people's attention with his message and his influence grew.
- Paul's approach was to reason with them not to attack them or to force his belief system on them.
- Paul's message was so powerful that it influenced the people listening to take him to their friends.
- Paul was invited back into the conversation. Why? Because he leveraged his influence with passion for Christ and compassion for people.

Next Steps

- Invite Christ into your life through prayer.
- Tell somebody about your decision. Fill out Connection Card.
- Sign up for Starting Point Small Group Sunday mornings at 9 am or 12 noon in Room 301.
- Go to Small Group Central and pick up a New Testament.
- Share your story.

PCC's Mission: To become fully devoted followers of Christ.



connect



grow



serve



share



honor

Pinellas Community Church, St. Petersburg, FL
www.pcconline.tv