

The New Testament Model

The Church in Antioch

Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-4

Acts 11:19-30

¹⁹⁻²¹ Those who had been scattered by the persecution triggered by Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, but they were still only speaking and dealing with their fellow Jews. Then some of the men from Cyprus and Cyrene who had come to Antioch started talking to Greeks, giving them the Message of the Master Jesus. God was pleased with what they were doing and put his stamp of approval on it—quite a number of the Greeks believed and turned to the Master.²²⁻²⁴ When the church in Jerusalem got wind of this, they sent Barnabas to Antioch to check on things. As soon as he arrived, he saw that God was behind and in it all. He threw himself in with them, got behind them, urging them to stay with it the rest of their lives. He was a good man that way, enthusiastic and confident in the Holy Spirit's ways. The community grew large and strong in the Master.²⁵⁻²⁶ Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. He found him and brought him back to Antioch. They were there a whole year, meeting with the church and teaching a lot of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were for the first time called Christians.²⁷⁻³⁰ It was about this same time that some prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem. One of them named Agabus stood up one day and, prompted by the Spirit, warned that a severe famine was about to devastate the country. (The famine eventually came during the rule of Claudius.) So the disciples decided that each of them would send whatever they could to their fellow Christians in Judea to help out. They sent Barnabas and Saul to deliver the collection to the leaders in Jerusalem.

Acts 13:1-4

13 ¹⁻² The congregation in Antioch was blessed with a number of prophet-preachers and teachers:

Barnabas, Simon, nicknamed Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen, an advisor to the ruler Herod, Saul.

One day as they were worshiping God—they were also fasting as they waited for guidance—the Holy Spirit spoke: "Take Barnabas and Saul and commission them for the work I have called them to do."³ So they commissioned them. In that circle of intensity and obedience, of fasting and praying, they laid hands on their heads and sent them off.⁴ Sent off on their new assignment by the Holy Spirit, Barnabas and Saul went down to Seleucia and caught a ship for Cyprus.

The 14 Marks of the Church in Antioch

- It was liberal and non-traditional (11:20)
- It was open to all (11:21)
- It was growing (11:21)
- It was cooperative (11:22)
- It was forgiving (11:26)
- It was aggressive in its outreach (11:25)
- It was conservative in its core values (11:26)
- It was a teaching church (11:26)
- It was known by its community (11:26)
- It was a generous church (11:29)
- It was a worshipping church (13:2)
- It was a praying church (13:3)
- It was an “open to new ideas” church (13:3)
- It was a mission driven church (13:4)

New Testament Model Questionnaire

	We do this well			We don't do this	
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
1. Liberal & Non-traditional	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
2. Open to All	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
3. Growing & Warm in Welcome	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
4. Cooperative	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
5. Forgiving	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
6. Aggressive in its Outreach	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
7. Conservative in Core Values	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
8. Teaching Church	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
9. Known by its Community	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
10. Generous	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
11. Worshipping	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
12. Praying	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
13. Open to New Ideas	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
14. Mission Driven	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>