

**THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM**  
**Living Among Idols Part 1**  
**Sermon 16.10.10**  
**Wayne Krause**

**Small Group Study for Week of October 16-22**

**The Big Idea**

**We can learn to live as followers of Christ in our communities that are full of idols if we learn to go where Paul went, feel how Paul felt and see what Paul saw.**

**Group Reads Acts 17:16-32 page 759**

**Where Did Paul Go?**

Comment: When Paul was in Athens he spent time in the market place or argara (a`gora/)

The argara was where anyone went who wanted to influence society.

**Questions**

1. What do you think the difference between having a private faith and having a personal faith is? Why do you think many people today believe a person's faith should be private? How do you think Paul would have reacted to the idea that a person's faith in Christ should be private?
2. How do you think CCCC could enter into the market place more? How do you think we individually could enter the market place more?

**What Did Paul Feel?**

**Comment:** The word "stirred in him" or "greatly distressed" in Acts 17: 16 is the Greek word *Paroxuvneto* Paroxuno from which we get parixemo from which we get the word seizure. This is the intense feeling that Paul had. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament this word is often used to describe how God is when He is jealous of his people because they are following pagan idols and destroying themselves. When God is jealous He is expressing two things, righteous indignation and loving compassion- both at the same time. Very few people can show both emotions in balance, Paul could and we should.

3. How would you describe righteous indignation and loving compassion?
4. Why would God show both righteous indignation and loving compassion at the same time to people who are following idols?
5. Describe what it is like when you meet someone who shows righteous indignation in their Christianity but not enough loving compassion. Describe what it is like to meet someone who shows loving compassion in their Christian life but no righteous indignation.
6. How are righteous indignation and loving compassion demonstrated at the cross?
7. How can we see people through the same eyes as Paul and Jesus?

## **What Did Paul See?**

### **Group Reads: Acts 17:22-31**

#### **Comment: Paul saw idols under everything?**

**Discuss the statement:** “Behind every moral, ethical and social problem in the world today, be it in government or personal relationships, there is an idol.”

8. If an idol is defined as turning something that could be a good thing into the most important thing, how important is it to identify the idols in my life?

9. What can we do this week to go where Paul went, feel what Paul felt and see what Paul saw?