

# GRACE GOES TO THE FAIR

## WHY WE GO AND HOW WE DO IT

*“Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.”*

~ Acts 17:17

### 1. Why We Go

- a. Not to redeem the culture, but to replace it – Eph 5:1-16
  - i. Redeem the culture = do what everyone else does “for Christ” – Col 3:23
  - ii. ‘Redeem the culture’ includes presenting a lifestyle and making friends
- b. People need to know what we have learned, before they can change their lifestyle
- c. Evangelism is necessary: for salvation, for the church, for Christ
- d. The gospel of Christ must be spoken – Rom 10:14-18, 1Th 1:7-8, Acts 17:16-17
- e. The church increases through evangelistic effort – Acts 16:5
- f. Christ is preached with words – he has given us a ministry – 2Co 5:18-20
- g. To redeem the time, because the days are evil – Psa 107:2, Eph 5:16
- h. Redeeming the time is changing what we do with the brief time we have.
- i. Redeem the culture wastes your time, redeeming the time changes your culture

### 2. How We Do It

- a. A phone call, a little money, a little time and effort make the fairs happen
- b. When it comes to evangelism people instantly become pious (as an excuse)
- c. People are against this type of evangelism, because they feel it too forward
  - i. Paul encouraged forwardness (not backward) - 2 Cor 8:8, 9:2, 1 Th 2:2
  - ii. Forwardness *def.* ready, eager, initiating, bold, confident
- d. People would rather sit in churches, hide their agenda, lie to others - 1 Th 2:1-5
- e. Tracts and books → Do they work or not? They work when/where voices don’t
- f. The right gospel is most important, clearly given, provocative titles help
- g. We try to avoid kitsch that distracts from the message, but creativity is welcomed
- h. When something must be done, doing something is always better than doing nothing

### 3. Gaining Courage

- a. It is a fearful thing to put yourself on display (but also... Rom 3:18, 14:12, 1Cor 3:13)
- b. Paul was timorous as well – 1 Cor 2:1-4, Eph 6:19-20, Col 4:3-4
- c. Fear can be good, guilt can be good when it leads us to what is right
- d. God has not given us the spirit of fear... but the answer to it – 2 Tim 1:7
- e. We are not to be ashamed of who Christ has made us – Rom 1:16, 2 Tim 1:8
- f. Sometimes what we need to embolden us is a Pauline example – Phil 1:14
- g. Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course - 2 Th 3:1