

THE CHURCH & CULTURE | ACTS 19:21-40
WAVE CHURCH SD | JULY 31ST, 2022

Acts 19:18-20(ESV) ¹⁸Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰**So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.**

Acts 19:21-22 (ESV) ²¹Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²²And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

Acts 19:23-27 (ESV) ²³**About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.** ²⁴For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

THE WAY

- KNOWN FOR WHO THEY FOLLOWED, NOT WHAT THEY WERE AGAINST
- OUTWARD ACTIONS MATCHED INWARD BELIEFS
- CONFLICT WITH CULTURE

What is the Church's role when it comes to our culture?

THREE OPTIONS FOR THE CHURCH IN CULTURE

1. DOMINATE

Matthew 20:25-28(NLT) "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2. ISOLATE

John 17:15-18 ¹⁵I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world

3. INFLUENCE

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) ¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

TWO WAYS THE CHURCH LOSES ITS INFLUENCE

CONTAMINATION & SEPARATION

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) ¹⁴"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Acts 19:28-34 (ESV) ²⁸When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹**So the city was filled with the confusion**, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. ³⁰But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. ³¹And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not

to venture into the theater. ³² **Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together.** ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

IF THE ENEMY CAN'T WIN HEARTS, HE WILL CONFUSE THEM

Acts 19:35-37 (ESV) ³⁵ And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ **For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.**

Acts 19:35-37 (ESV) ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (ESV) ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, **that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.** ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

THE CHURCH IS NOT CALLED TO TRANSFORM CULTURE

THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES