

World Upside Down: The Book of Acts

Acts 4:1-22

- 1. What do you think is the most controversial doctrine of Christianity in our contemporary society?**
- 2. The *source* of the resurrection creates controversy, not its *fact* (vv. 1-4).**

Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

- Acts 23:6-8

- 3. Peter’s speech is proof of Jesus’ promise (vv. 5-10).**

“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

- Jesus, in Luke 12:8-12

- 4. Jesus is the Stone that the builders rejected (v. 11).**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone. (ESV)

- Psalm 118:22

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.”

- 1 Peter 2:4-7

5. Salvation is found in Christ alone (v. 12).

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (ESV)

- 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- John 14:6

“Christ is not *my* truth or *your* truth; He is *the* truth. He is not one truth among many. He is the truth about everything that is true. He is the universal and cosmic truth. Everything that is true—in religion, philosophy, mathematics, or the art of baseball—is true by virtue of participation in the truth who is Christ. The problem is not

that non-Christians do not know truth; the problem is that they do not know that the truth they know is the truth of Christ.”

- Richard John Neuhaus

6. What distinguishes the disciples isn't their learning but their Lord (v. 13).

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

- I Corinthians 1:27

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

- Jesus, in John 15:1-5

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end...Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 3:12, 17-18

7. The love of Christ compels the speech of His disciples (vv. 14-22).

If I say, “I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,”
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,

and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
- Jeremiah 20:9

The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?”
- Amos 3:8

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
- 1 Corinthians 9:16

8. Jesus rubs off on His followers.

- Challenged by religious leaders (John 18:13-14)
- Questioned about background (John 7:15)
- Fear of crowds (Luke 20:19)
- Unjustly seized

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- Luke 6:40

Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
- John 15:20