

*Acts 11:19-30 The 'Christian' Church at Antioch

¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

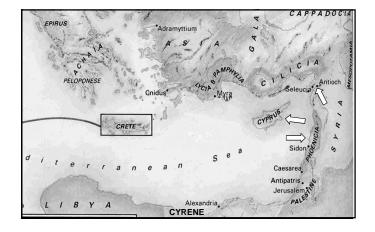
²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. ²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord; ²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were added to the Lord ²⁵ And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

²⁷ Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up and *began* to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the *reign* of Claudius. ²⁹ And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send *a contribution* for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. ³⁰ And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

(Acts 11:19-30)

Church at Antioch

1. Initiated by Unnamed Believers



Church at Antioch

- 1. Initiated by Unnamed Believers
 - God used ordinary believers sharing the gospel to form an extraordinary church
 - God appoints the proclaiming of the gospel as the power for salvation

Church at Antioch

- 2. Sustained by Spirit-filled Teachers
 - the church was nurtured by men who were not concerned with power or self-promotion but the spiritual welfare of the saints
 - these men were committed to teaching as a vital means of spiritual growth and perseverance in the faith

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

Church at Antioch

- 3. Authenticated by Sincere Generosity
 - the evidence of God's grace is seen in the noncoerced giving for the needs of the saints
 - this generosity went beyond the local church to the needs of the larger body

Church at Antioch

- > Disciples were called "Christians"
 - they were known by others simply as those 'belonging to Christ'