

Against the Flow

Acts 21:17-36

What is the difference between...

Destruction by _____

Destruction by _____

How does _____ happen in:

Relationships

The _____

The Book of Acts

What Jesus Christ _____ to _____ and to _____
through the Church by the work of the Holy Spirit

The task of the church Acts 1:8

Paul anticipated _____ in Jerusalem

Acts 20:22-23; 21:11

Acts 21:17-36

17-20a: Jerusalem: greetings and report about _____ ministry

Paul finally arrived in _____

Joined by 7 representatives of _____ churches

Romans 15:31-32

Warmly welcomed by many _____ Christians

Who were _____ for God's work among Gentiles
through Paul's travels

20b-25: Report about _____ ministry. The conflict and plan

God also worked among _____

They were zealous for Jewish _____: "the Law"

Rumors of Paul telling Jews to stop being _____

Actually he taught _____ about Jewish culture

Plan: public display of Paul supporting _____ culture: a vow
ceremony in the temple

In reality: Paul was "culturally _____" 1 Corinthians 9:20-22

They were okay with _____ not following the law

26-29: Paul followed the plan, and it _____!

Paul immediately followed their plan

Had to be separated from his _____ companions

Jews from Asia (perhaps _____) were there

They stirred up the crowd

with _____ claims and false claims

Bad assumptions yet had some basis in facts

30-36: Resulted in _____. Saved by Roman arrest

Much like the events leading to _____ crucifixion

Increased the division between _____ and _____

Threatened to split the _____

Ephesians 1:9-10

The Big Idea:

**God's plan is to unite all things
in Christ
through the church
while sin and its effects
bring decay and division**

Ephesians 2:14-18

The "_____ " in society will affect the church as well

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., October 15, 1962

C.S. Lewis, "God in the Dock"

Application

_____ and _____ God's intention for the Church

God's purpose is "to bring _____ to _____ things in heaven and
on earth under Christ" Ephesians 1:9; 2:15

A _____ church is certainly not God's design

Come _____ to people who are _____ from you

Separation>don't communicate>don't know>fear>hate
John 1:14

Go to _____ and _____, and then to share

This must be an _____ work in our church

Love

Love

When you encounter people who are _____ from you... 1
Corinthians 13

By the power and character of the _____

Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 4:5

Reflection

- What relationships in your life are being destroyed by erosion? What can you do to stop the erosion?
- Where have we failed to join in God's work for the church, both in our church and between churches?
- What can you and I do, and continue to do, to join in the work of God in His Church to unite all things in heaven and earth in Christ?