

ACTS 20 - The Church

August 21

Warm-Up Question:

Go around and give 3 adjectives or other words that describe how you feel about the Church. Give 3 that describe how the culture increasingly feels toward the Church.

READ: Acts 20:17-31

I. The Church: TRUTH

- ▶ How does the culture treat truth these days? How does it treat truth in terms of the Bible and Christianity?
- ▶ Read Acts 20:20 & John 14:6. How did Paul and Jesus think of truth and declare it? Why is truth so important?
- ▶ Why is meeting in a small group so important for understanding and applying truth to our lives?

II. The Church: GRACE

- ▶ Read Acts 20:18-19 and 1 Cor. 2:3. How did Paul demonstrate his own need of God's grace?
- ▶ Read Acts 20:24, 32a. What is "the grace of God" and why do we need it?
- ▶ How does God's grace combat our own desire or need to prove our worth by our works? In what areas do you struggle with an attempt to prove yourself by what you have or what you do?
- ▶ How does grace produce freedom to be more honest about your weaknesses and yet confident at the same time?

III. The Church: COMMUNITY

- ▶ How does the TRUTH and the GRACE of God produce a group of people that can deeply love one another, in spite of their differences?
- ▶ Review Acts 20:36-37. Describe the kind of relationships and community we should seek to have in the Church?
- ▶ How is your Life Group doing in terms of both declaring TRUTH and resting in God's GRACE? What is one or two ways you can go deeper in experiencing honest and loving community with one another?