

The Gospel and its Consort
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From Acts 14:1. The Gospel and Its Consort

Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium, and while there, “they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks” (v. 1.)

So the Gospel was dropped into the synagogue and thereby into Iconium. How? The Gospel was thrown over the language of men. The preachers "spoke in such a manner" that their language was calculated

A) To convey gospel truth faithfully,

B) To persuade,

C) To eliminate any possible compromise.

Therefore, the gospel and its language manifold “consort” (or essential mate) could not accommodate to Iconium society, culture or worldview. Just the opposite happened -- those who "believed" were obligated to accommodate to the gospel.

What then does it mean “to believe”? Answer: Belief is to accommodate to the Gospel and to its consort language manifold. Notable here is the fact that true belief in the gospel does not begin in the human heart. Rather, belief begins in the gospel revelation and its consort language manifold ! This is why we preach! That is preaching!

The "large number of people" who "believed" then had to break with iconium society, culture and sociology. Necessarily there had to be a break with the Iconium language manifold. And this means trouble in Iconium between the church and the human collective.

It seems difficult to resist the conclusion that the contemporary churches adapt the gospel to the local language manifold and its frame of reference.

So, what happens to faith? It is corrupted. A corrupted faith means a corrupted church. This is The Age of Corruption.