

A photograph of the Acropolis of Athens, Greece, under a clear blue sky. The ancient stone structures, including the Parthenon, are visible on a hillside. The foreground is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The text 'Acts 17:24-34' is overlaid in orange on the left side of the image.

Acts 17:24–34

A Love That Connects

OPENING

We all want to feel connected

“Can you understand my reality?”

Connection says: I see you. I care enough to pay attention.

MAIN IDEA

A love that connects...

Pays attention



Brings meaning



Calls to change



One thing to know:

God is not far from anyone.

A Love That Connects Pays Attention

“The God who made the world... is the Lord of heaven and earth...”

Acts 17:24-34

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Acts 17:24-34

27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.

Modern altars still shape us

Success
Politics
Identity
Comfort
Anxiety & control

People still ask: “Will my life work out?”

Do I understand the world people are actually living in?

My spouse

My children

Singles and students

Neighbors and coworkers

People hearing culture all week

Pay attention before you proclaim.

POINT TWO

A Love That Connects Brings Meaning

**“He marked out their appointed
times... so that they would seek
him...”**

Acts 17:26–27

A person is seen from behind, standing on a sandy beach with their arms outstretched towards the ocean. The sun is setting directly in front of them, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water and the person's shirt. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

“He is not far from any one of us.”

Acts 17:27

MEANING

God is the source, not an accessory

**“In him we live and move and
have our being.”**

Acts 17:28

We do not invent ultimate meaning.
We receive it from our Creator.
God made you uniquely, loves you
personally, calls you purposefully.

Acts 17:24-34

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:24-34

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." 33 At that, Paul left the Council. 34 Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

A Love That Connects Calls People to Change

**Connection without truth becomes sentimentality.
Truth without connection can become harshness.**

RESURRECTION

Jesus is Lord, Judge, and Savior

God will judge the world with justice
He gave proof by raising Jesus from the dead
Repentance is God inviting us back into reality

Grace and truth.

We all need to keep changing

“If you possess these qualities in increasing measure...”

2 Peter 1:8

Not: “I used to grow.”

Not: “I was baptized, so I’m done.”

Increasing measure.

RESPONSE

Three responses to the message

Some sneered

Some wanted more

Some believed

Dionysius. Damaris. Others
with them.

THIS WEEK

Practice a love that connects

Pay attention to someone's reality.
Bring meaning into someone's confusion.
Call someone — including yourself — to reach
out again.

God is not far.

Reach out for him and find him.