

"What Does NLC Look Like?"

Acts 11:19-30, 13:1-3, 14:28-30 (ref)

Background of the New Testament Church

-Birthed in the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-4 (ref), and
in Persecution Acts 8:1-4 (ref)

"persecuted", "scattered", "preaching"

-Result: "great joy" Acts 8:8(ref) and "affliction/
joy of the Holy Spirit" 1Thes 1:6 (ref)

Characteristics of a NT Church Acts 11:19-30
(ref)

1. Traditional v19
2. Creative v20
3. Evangelistic v21
4. Accountable v22
5. Encouraging v23-24
6. Identity v25-26
7. Spirit filled v27-28
8. Generous v29-30

9. Diverse Acts 13:1(written out)
-culture, race, nationality

-objective: to be willing and able to minister to, love, befriend, and raise up anyone, from anywhere, without prejudice or pre-conceived ideas about them
-intentional, purposeful

Acts 13:1

1. Barnabas - Jew, Cyprus, "encourager", faithful, "regular Joe"
2. Simeon, called Niger - African, Black Acts 2:10 and 8:27(refs)
3. Lucious of Cyrene (Libya) - Greek from No. Africa, Greek culture
4. Manean - Roman, luxury,prestige,opportunities, power
5. Saul (Paul) - Prestigious Jew! Philippians 3:5-6 (ref)

-prophets/teachers; praying/fasting; sending out; fellowshipping

Diversity: Culture/Race/Nationality/and....

-Age Acts 2:17d "young men will see visions, old men will dream dreams",

Pro16:31 "silver haired head is a crown of glory" , 1 Tim 4:12a "do not let anyone despise your youth"

Diversity: Culture/Race/Nationality/and....

-Gender Acts 2:17c "sons and daughters will prophesy", Acts 2:18 "menservants and maidservants", Gal 3:28 "neither male nor female, all one in Christ Jesus"

Diversity: Culture/Race/Nationality/and....

- Social Standing 1 Cor 12:27 "foolish and weak things", 1 Cor 12:23-24 "we think less honorable, we bestow greater honor", James 2:1-5(ref) v5 "..Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom..."

Diversity: Culture/Race/Nationality/and....

-Family/Lifestyle...single, married, separated, divorced, remarried, widowed; blended families; bi-racial couples and families; foster children/homes; sexually active not married, living

together not married; homosexual individuals
and couples; multiple partners, seekers
Ephesians 4:13 "equip the saints"; 1 Cor
6:11 "washed, sanctified, justified"

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9. Diverse 1 Cor 12:13, Eph 5:4-6, Acts 13:1
(refs)

- Jew, African, Greek, Roman, Prestigious Jew
- teaching, praying, fasting, sending
- age, gender, social standing, family
- to be continued.....