

In Athens, the center of culture, religion, and philosophy, Paul was not troubled by the leaders of the Jews. However, he did discover the challenges of confronting the intellectual community with the gospel, and in particular, the resurrection. Being greatly disturbed by the volume of idols in the city Paul preached the Good News to all who would listen in the agora (lit. “gathering place”).

It wasn't long before his preaching in the agora caught the attention of the philosophers. Soon he had gained the intellectual community's interest and strong reaction. They *took* (the Greek word means “to grasp”) him to appear before the Areopagus (a council with the power to prohibit Paul's teaching). One idol called “To An Unknown God” gave Paul a culturally relevant platform to boldly introduce the one true Creator God.

**Creator (V24a)**

**Ruler (V24b)**

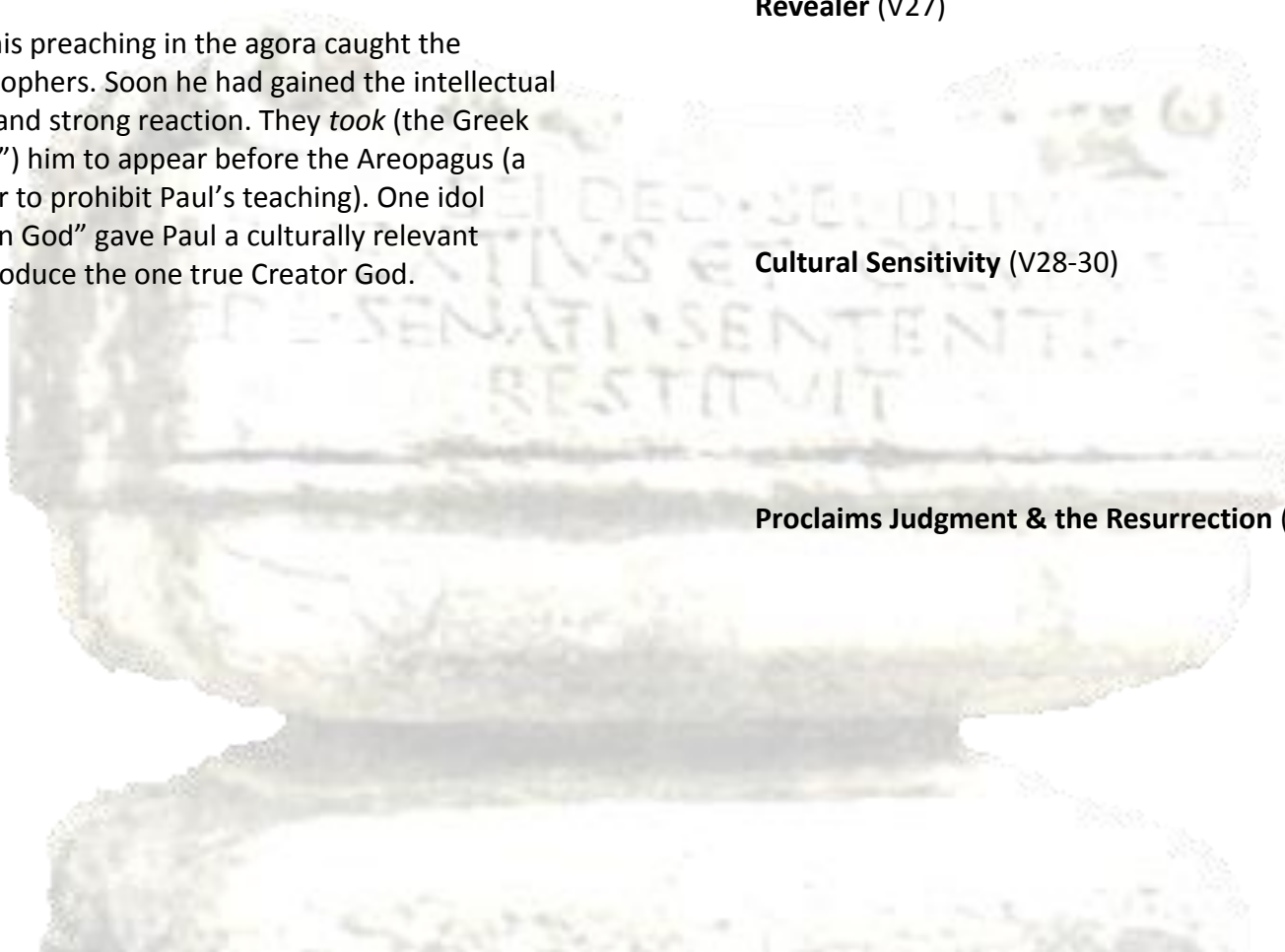
**Giver (V25)**

**Controller (V26)**

**Revealer (V27)**

**Cultural Sensitivity (V28-30)**

**Proclaims Judgment & the Resurrection (V31)**



## Personal Application and Group Interaction

1. When sharing the Good News what question would you prefer not come up in the conversation?
2. Paul presented the Gospel in the form of philosophical argument, using pagan religious poetry and an Athenian altar "To An Unknown God." Evaluate which of the following approaches doesn't "fit" today's world as an effective method of evangelizing. Give reasons why it does or does not fit contemporary culture.
  1. Passing out tracts on a street
  2. Holding revival meetings in a church building
  3. Putting evangelistic sermons on TV
  4. Holding a debate on a college campus
  5. Busing children to Sunday School
  6. Sponsoring a Divorce Recovery Workshop in the community
  7. Holding Bible studies in homes
  8. Doing house-to-house visitation
  9. Plastering your car with "Jesus Saves" bumper stickers
  10. Organizing a mayor's prayer breakfast
3. What was the most important influence in your own conversion? How was the Gospel presented to you? What conclusions can be drawn, if any, about how to best communicate the Gospel in our modern world?
4. What are the lessons about cultural relevance that you learned from Paul's mini-sermon in front of the Areopagus?



## Cultural Relevance

### Acts 17:16-34

Pastor Dennis  
August 12, 2018

