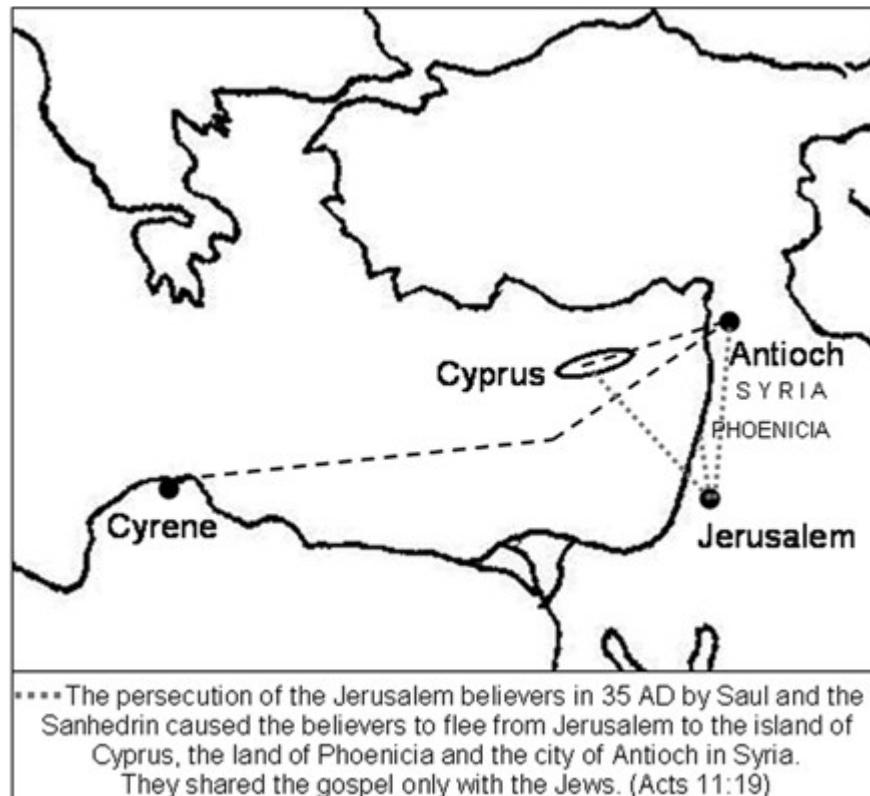


A Church Model — Antioch Syria

Syrian Antioch - present day Antakya in southern Turkey. This Antioch was known as "Queen of the East", capital of the province of Syria, and the third largest city in the Roman Empire after Rome and Alexandria. With a population of over half a million people, it was located on the River Orontes, and a junction of trade routes between East and West. It should not be confused with Pisidian Antioch, a Phrygian town in the Roman province of Galatia



[Acts 11:19-22](#) - “Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

10 Distinct characteristics of this early church

1. The grace of God — [Acts 11:23](#)

Antioch was a church that was established in the grace of God

We are to be established and characterized by the grace of God

1. [[2Pe 3:18](#) NKJV] 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory both now and forever. Amen.
2. [[2Co 9:8](#) NKJV] 8 And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may have an abundance for every good work.
3. [[Eph 2:8-10](#) NKJV] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2. Full of the Holy Spirit and Faith — [Acts 11:24](#)

Members in the church were full of the Holy Spirit and faith. They were teachable, ready and available.

3. Witnessing Church — [Acts 11:24](#)

Were open to their community with the gospel of Jesus

4. Taught the Word of God — [Acts 11:26](#)

- Paul shared with the church at Ephesus: [[Act 20:27](#) KJV] 27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.
- Paul told Timothy [[2Ti 4:2](#) KJV] 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- Peter said to partake of the Word for growth: [[1Pe 2:2](#) KJV] 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

5. Diverse in gifts, Diverse in people — [Acts 11:27](#), [13:1-2](#)

1. Different gifts:

1. [Rom.12:5-8](#) Open to the gifts of the Spirit

2. Different backgrounds, ethnicity, social classes, personalities:

1. Barnabas, Jewish (encourager, empathetic)

2. Saul / Paul, and John Mark ([Acts 12:25](#)) Different ages, personalities.

3. Simeon who was called Niger (could be same as the Simeon who carried Jesus' cross, who was from Cyrene; Niger means black — presumably a black African among the leadership at Antioch)

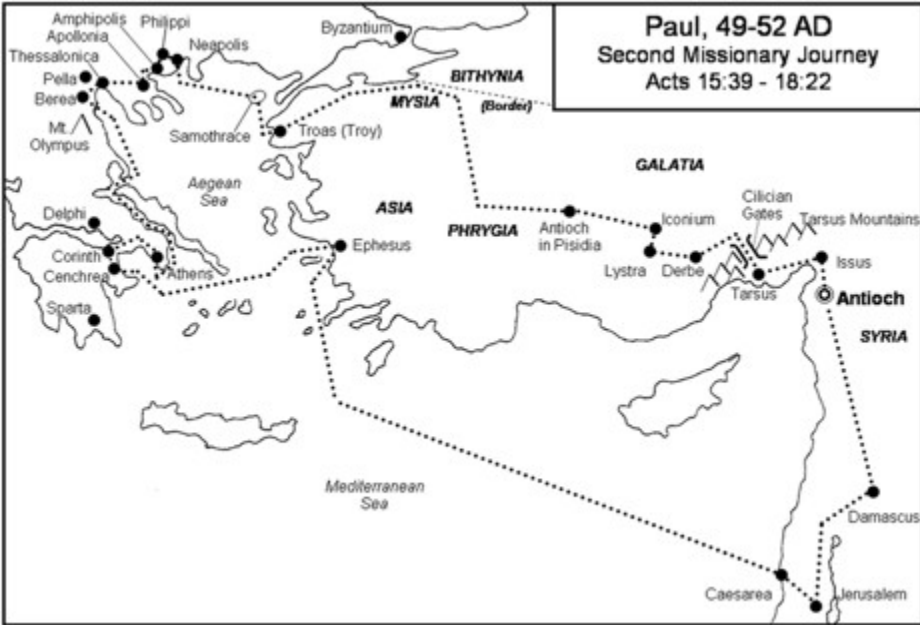
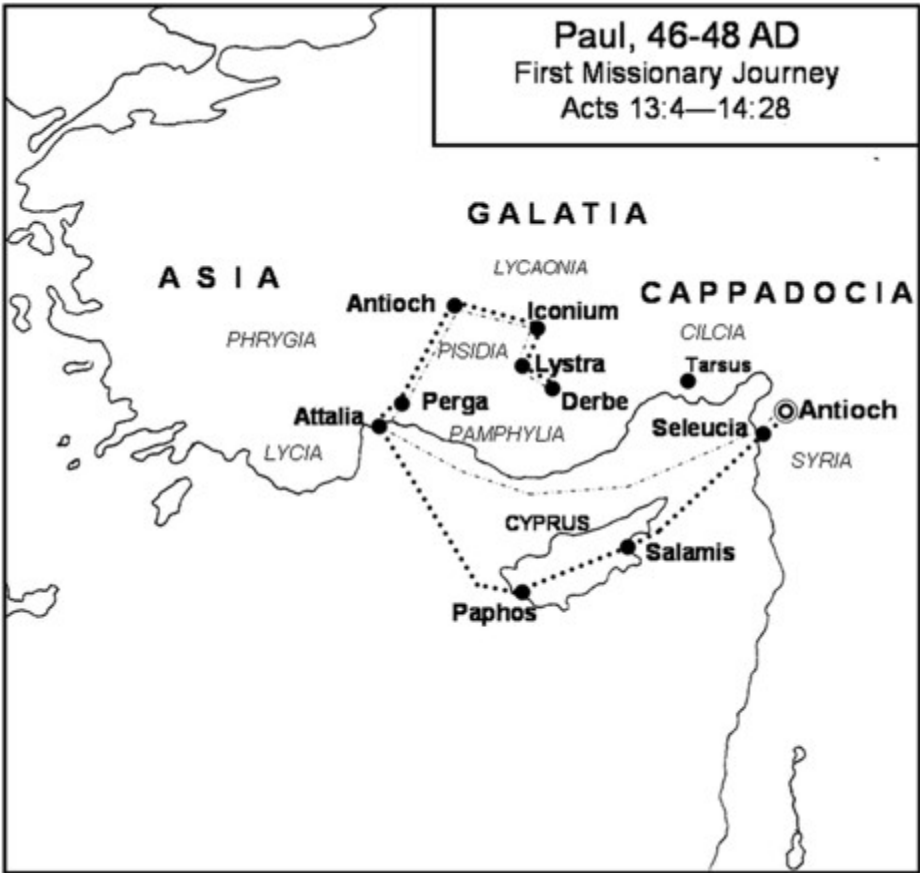
4. Lucius of Cyrene — Latin name, from from North Africa — Jewish heritage

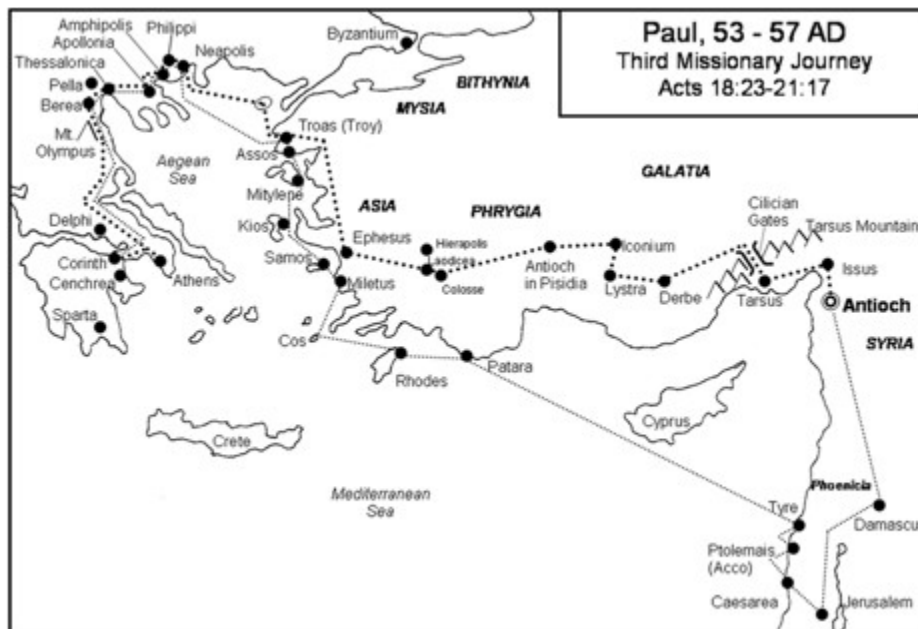
5. Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch

1. Same Herod who beheaded John the Bap.
 2. “Herod and Manaen grew up together, but went very different ways. One killed John the Baptist and presided over one of the trials of Jesus before His crucifixion. The other became a Christian, and a leader in the dynamic congregation at Antioch.” D. Guzik.
 3. A diverse church shows the unity that is in Jesus
6. Generous, giving church — [Acts 11:28-30](#)
1. Generosity is a direct response to God’s generosity for us.
 2. a church that doesn’t give will be stopped up
 3. Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” — [Acts 20:35](#)
7. Leadership was led — Jesus was the Head — [Acts 13:1-3](#)
1. The leadership, preached Jesus, encouraged people in grace of God. They were examples in their walk, dependent themselves on the Lord, not above the people they were called to lead.
 2. [1 Peter 5](#)
 3. [Acts 20:35](#) NLT And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’
 4. [1 Tim 4:12](#) NKJV Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
8. VIII. Worshipping and Praying — [Acts 13:2-3](#)

A powerful church is a praying Church

9. Supporting and Sending Church — [Acts 13:3](#)
1. Great commission — “Go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations...”
 2. **Acts 14:26-28**
 3. First, Second and Third Missionary Journeys originated from Antioch





10. They were given the name “Christians” — [Acts 11:26](#)

How many times is “Christian” in the Bible?

What is the meaning of it?

A Church Model — Antioch Syria

[Acts 11:19-22](#), [13:1-3](#), [14:26-28](#), [15:30-35](#)

Characteristics we can pray for in our church.

1. Present and growing Grace of God
2. Full of the Holy Spirit and Faith
3. A Witnessing Church
4. In the Word of God
5. Diverse in Gifts and People
6. Generous / Giving
7. Leaders who were called — not self-promoted/promoting
8. Worshipful and Prayerful
9. Supporting and Sending — taking part in the Great commission
10. “Christians” — Known as people who reflect Jesus