



**GOING
INSIDE
OUT**



**Christians drop,
'NONES' soar in new
religion portrait**

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

**Non Christian Faith went up from
4.7% to 5.9% (Up 1.2%)**

**Atheists rose from
1.6% to 3.1% (Up 1.5%)**

**Agnostics rose from
2.4% to 4% (Up 1.6%)**

**Nones rose from
12.1 to 15.8 (Up 3.7%)**

NONES

(15.8%)

They just lost interest

30%

**Religion is still at
least somewhat
important to them**

**THE QUEST FOR
RELEVANCE**

THE QUEST FOR RELEVANCE

WE'VE TRIED!

Changes in Music

Changes in Dress

Changes in Methodology

Changes in Ministry

**THE QUEST FOR
RELEVANCE**

Divisions

Distractions

Disappointments

**ALL OF THESE
CHANGES ARE EXTERNAL**

We've Tried to make
God Relevant from the
OUTSIDE **working** **IN**

**A RELEVANT
STORY**

Acts 17:16-34

OUTWARD PROBLEM

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

v. 16

OUTWARD PROBLEM

What's an Idol?

**A physical representation
of a god or God**

God's Command Exodus 20:4-5

An Inside Issue (Romans 1:21-23)

**Idol worship is the
essence of religion**

**OUTWARD
PRESENTATION**

Acts 17:17-21

OUTWARD PRESENTATION

**He reasoned
with them**

He got them talking

He got them listening

It became relevant

**CLEAR
SPEECH**

Acts 17:22-23

CLEAR SPEECH

He viewed them as real people

**He acknowledged their
desire to know God**

He viewed their efforts

**He focused in on their
understanding their had
to be something more**

(The Unknown God) – aka NONES

PAUL'S MESSAGE

Acts 17:24-31

PAUL'S MESSAGE

God

God Creator

God of Life

God of Love

**Different
Perspective**

**Don't focus on the
outside**

(Idols/Religion)

**Focus on the
Inside Repent
and Return
Relationship**

**PEOPLE'S
REACTION**

Acts 17:32-34

PEOPLE'S REACTION

**Some Rejected
(They sneered)**

**Some wanted
to hear more**

Some Believed



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