

Education: The Beginning of Knowledge

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Acts 21:22 – 22:29;

I. Identity in Our Education:

A. What is identity?

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B. What is education?

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II. Paul's Use of Education in Acts

A. Context:

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B. Multi-Lingual Engagement: Greek and Hebrew

- Paul used his skill in languages to further the Gospel by addressing the Greek Tribunal.
- Paul used his skill in languages to further the Gospel by addressing the Hebrew mob.

C. Paul Highlights His Education

- “Educated at the feet of Gamaliel” (Act. 22:3).

III. Gamaliel:

A. “A first-century ad teacher of the law of Moses, under whom Paul studied (Acts 5:34; Acts 22:3). He was part of the school of Hillel and a member of the Sanhedrin.”¹

B. Acts 5:34-40: Gamaliel was respected, a leader of the Sanhedrin, and an esteemed instructor. Paul essentially tells the Hebrew mob that he had been educated by the best.



C. *Why?* Paul was using his education to leverage toward the Gospel but was not suggesting his education to be what comprised his being—his identity.

¹ Major Contributors and Editors, [“Gamaliel I.”](#) ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

IV. Identification with Our Education

A. A Personal Anecdote

B. A Professional Consideration

C. Leveraging vs. Identifying

V. Identification

A. Questions for Consideration:

- Does my education make me more self-confident?
- Does my education give me hope?
- Does my education embolden me in social contexts?
- Do I feel lesser than because I have less education?
- Do I connect my education to my spiritual giftedness or spiritual qualifications?
- Do I see education as what would bring completeness to my life?

B. How does Paul balance education?

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Phil. 3:7-8).

- His education was incomparable to the value of *knowing* Christ Jesus.
- His education was not where he found his identity but in the Gospel.

VI. Practical Strategies to Finding Your Identity in Christ, Not Your Education

- A. First of all, *leverage* education but do not *love* education. Love Christ.
- B. Education is a means of worship, not a means of confirming your identity in Christ (Phil. 3:8b).
- C. Pursue education for better equipping in glorifying God—especially in the liberal arts.
- D. Repent of believing being educated corresponds to degrees.
- E. Understand knowledge begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7).
- F. Finally, as an act of worship, only volunteer your education as a means of advancing the Gospel, not your own accomplishments.

VII. Conclusion: