

## Discerning the Community IV

*Discernment* is the ability to sift and sort and determine what is operating. *Discernment* is ability to see behind and beyond the seen. *Discernment* is the ability to sense and see God, angelic, human, satanic or demonic activity.

The city is the abode and battle ground of God and Satan.

Every city has a “spirit”, dominate characteristic and presence.

Paul discerns the city of Athens.

Paul is unsettled and disquieted by what he discerns in Athens.

Consider Acts 17:16-21

### I

<sup>NLT</sup> Acts 17:16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he **was deeply troubled** by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.

<sup>Amp</sup> Acts 17:16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, **his spirit was greatly angered** when he saw that the city was full of idols.

<sup>Mess</sup> Acts 17:16 The longer Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, **the angrier he got**—all those idols! The city was a junkyard of idols.

*When was the last time you were angry over the state of your city?*

When we know God’s standard, we should be highly troubled when standards are not met.

- Let anger move you to action.

*What makes you angry when wake up at three in the morning?*

## II

Paul's anger moved him to three spaces.

He went the synagogue regularly. Vs 17a

In ministry space the Lord downloads His wisdom.

- He went to the marketplace daily. Vs 17b

The marketplace is where we apply the wisdom of God.

The marketplace is where wisdom is expanded.

- You have to be invited to the public space. Vs 19

The public space is place of public policy.

Public policy impacts the lives of large groups of people.

- We chase to go to ministry space and the marketplace.
- We are called, invited and brought to the public space.

## III

Consider Acts 17: 24-31

Paul declares God is creator. Vs 24

God is worshipped differently. Vs 25, John 4:24

God made from one blood all people in the earth. **Vs 26**

God desires all mankind to seek Him and find Him. **Vs 27**

Paul commands mankind to repent and turn to Him. **Vs 30**

Paul declares He will judge the world by one, Jesus Christ. **Vs 31**