

# See How They Grew: (11) - Their Nickname

*Acts 11.19-30*

**'Christians' v26**

**- identified with Jesus v20,21,23**

**Church Growth v24; 2.41,47;5.14**

**- great numbers vs21,24,26**

**1. A Divine Dynamic was at work**

***the Lord's hand ... God's grace v21,23***

➤ **Growth comes from God 2.47**

**John 6.44; 16.8-9**

**2 Cor 10.5; 4.4; Ezek 36.36**

**1 Cor 3.6-7**

➤ **Growth comes through prayer**

**John 15.5,7-8**

**2. Human Factors played their part**

➤ **evangelism broke new ground v19f**

**Greeks as well as Jews**

***how can we reached the unchurched?***

- **their teaching focussed on wholehearted commitment vs21-24**
  - they began with the basics - repentance and faith v21**
  - they were concerned to nurture every new believer v23**
- Barnabas – a soft exterior:**
  - he noticed God’s grace v23**  
**Eph 2.8-9; John 1.14**
  - a firm interior:**
    - he called for loyalty v23**  
**Acts 26.28; 1 Pet 4.16**
- **their staff included a strategic specialist vs25-26; 9.15**
  - a ministry team was formed**
- **their compassion issued in practical actions vs27-30**
  - proactive, not reactive**
  - from each according to ability v29,**  
**to each according to need 4.35**

**Catch the vision - reach out for more!**