

The Church Is Settling Controversy

Acts 15:1-35

August 7, 2016

There is an inherent sense of injustice when it seems the rules have been changed midgame. The controversy of Acts 15 is introduced by some teaching of an additional requirement for Gentiles to become bonafide believers in Christ. That begins a debate between Paul and this new group. The answer to this conflict provides another confirmation of the Gospel and what is required of new believers. It also challenges us to look beyond what separates us to how we are united in Christ.

I. The C_____ (vv. 1-5)

“This issue arose because of false brothers smuggled in, who came in secretly to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us. ⁵But we did not yield in submission to these people for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain for you.” Galatians 2:4-5

Walking Point: *A M_____ Message!*

II. The D_____ (vv. 6-21)

“We are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners'; ¹⁶yet we know that no one is justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified... ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.”

Galatians 2:15-16, 21

“Can anyone withhold water and prevent these from being baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” Acts 10:47

“But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak... ¹³Therefore, if food causes my brother to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won't cause my brother to fall.” 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13

Walking
Point:

A C_____ Message!

III. The R_____ (vv. 22-35)

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel 36:26

“And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.”

Ephesians 4:11-13

Walking
Point:

An E_____ Message!