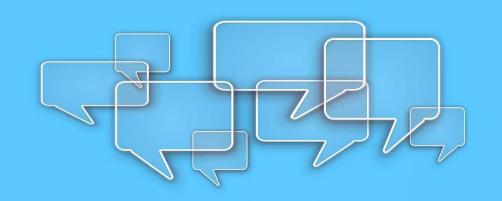


Acts 15

How to Handle Doctrinal Controversy

The Issue

Acts 15:1-5



- Conflicts arise as a result of growth and diversity
 - Gentiles Acts 11:1-3, 19-22
- Every Christian brings baggage
 - Pharisees' traditions v. 5
 - Gentiles' idolatry v. 20
- Requiring what God does not require is sinful
 - A different gospel Galatians 1:6-9

Acts 15:6-21



- Peter: "God made no distinction between Jew and Gentile with Cornelius" (v. 6-11, Acts 10-11)
- Barnabas and Saul: "God approved our teaching to the Gentiles on 1st journey" (v. 12, Acts 13-14)
- James: "God promised to welcome Gentiles into His house" (v. 13-21, Amos 9:11-12)

Acts 15:6-21



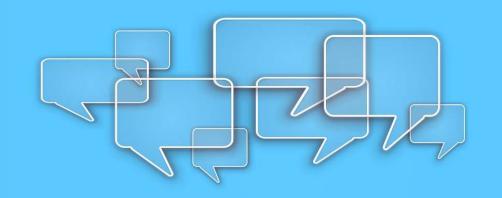
 Peter: "God made no distinction between Jew and Gentile with Cornelius" (v. 6-11, Acts 10-11)

Conclusion

God has shown that He accepts Gentiles without circumcision and on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ.

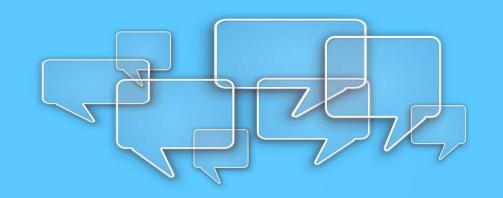
 James: "God promised to welcome Gentiles into His house" (v. 13-21, Amos 9:11-12)

Acts 15:6-21



- God always communicates His will so we can understand
 - Commanding or instructing directly (v. 15-18, 10:19-20)
 - Providing an example or precedent (v. 7-9, 10:44-48)
 - Implying a necessary conclusion (v. 11, 12, 11:17)
 - > For instance, God's 1st century pattern for the church applies to 21st century (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

Acts 15:6-21



God always communicates His will so we can understand

- God's communication is always sufficient for us
 - Apostles (v. 6), Holy Spirit (v. 28), and prophets (v. 32)
 - But, they relied on information already revealed
 - > For instance, Jesus' teaching on marriage and sexuality applies to all modern-day issues (Matthew 19:4-6)

The Resolution

Acts 15:22-35



- Anything not from God should be rejected
 - Silence does not authorize (v. 24)
 - Trace the source God or people? (Luke 20:3-4)

The Resolution

Acts 15:22-35



Anything not from God should be rejected

- Unity in truth is the goal
 - Become of one mind in God's will (v. 25, 1 Cor. 1:10)
 - Can't build God's house on two or more foundations (Ephesians 4:1-6)

The Resolution

Acts 15:22-35



Anything not from God should be rejected

Unity in truth is the goal

- Truth rejoices, encourages, and strengthens the heart
 - The brethren's response (v. 31-32)
 - Psalm 19:7-10



Acts 15

How to Handle Doctrinal Controversy