

2. The CONTRIBUTORS at the Council

- Peter: recalls God's INITIATION of the Gentile outreach. (15:7-11)
- Barnabas & Paul: share God's VALIDATION of the Gentile outreach. (15:12)
- James: shows how God's WORLD through Peter agrees with God's PROMISES in Scripture. (15:13-17)

3. The CONCLUSION of the Council

- The Apostles and Elders agree and affirm that salvation is by GRACE ALONE.
- ETHICAL COMPROMISES are encouraged to care for Jews.
- The judgment is communicated in PERSON and in WRITING.

4. The CONSEQUENCES of the Council

- The Gospel is DEFINED and DEFENDED.
- The UNITY of the Church is PRESERVED.
- The churches are ENCOURAGED and STRENGTHENED.
- The Gospel continues to MULTIPLY to the ends of the earth in fulfillment of Jesus' MISSION.



The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1-35

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Acts 15 is another significant "watershed" moment in the book of Acts as the Early Church comes together to define and defend the Gospel and preserve the church's unity.

1. The CONTROVERSY that gave rise to the Council

A. The Gentile mission has been building MOMENTUM.

B. Some Jews begin to QUESTION the Gospel.

- Can a person become a CHRISTIAN without also becoming a JEW?
- Can someone be saved without being CIRCUMCISED and keeping the MOSAIC LAW?

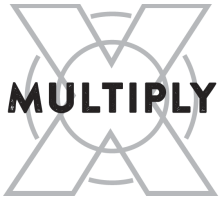
Are we saved by
grace ALONE through faith ALONE
in the finished work of Christ ALONE?

OR

Are we saved by
grace through faith in the finished work of Christ

+

OUR WORKS?



The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1-35

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Most Growth Groups are on break for the summer. Growth Group questions are provided most weeks during the summer for GraceYouth, household and individual use and discussion.

Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 - 30 min.)

1. How did you come under God's Word in the text/message this week? What struck you? How were you challenged/moved? What did you think/feel in response to this text/message?
2. What is the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 all about and why does it matter for us today?
3. Read Acts 15:1-35. Recall and retell the steps of the Gospel outreach to the Gentiles beginning with salvation of the Ethiopian Eunuch back in 8? What happens to make the Jerusalem Council necessary?

4. Read Galatians 2:11-14. How does this fit and connect to Acts 15? How are these two texts related?

5. What issue does Paul "go to the mat" and fight for? Where is Paul willing to compromise? How is this a helpful model for us?

6. What are some ways we can "fight for the Gospel" in our day? What are some issues where we might compromise to preserve the unity of the church?

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

Pray that we might understand, believe and fight for the Gospel in our own lives, in our families and in our church together. Pray for flexibility in non-essential issues. Pray for a unity in the church around the Gospel.