



Sunday September 12th – The Jerusalem Council – Resolving Conflict

Opening Prayer: *Lord, open our eyes to 'legalism' in our faith walk. Make us ready to receive those who we may deem to be 'outsiders'. Grow us in wisdom and faith.*

Read: Acts 15:1-35

1. Compare vs.1 & 5 with Ephesians 2:8-11 and Romans 3:28. What is the challenge the church is facing here?
2. Reading vs. 2-4, how are disputes being handled in the early church? What have we to learn from this?
3. In Verses 8 and 12, what **three** evidences does Peter present to the church in Jerusalem that God had accepted the Gentiles and they were saved without circumcision?
4. The Pharisees clearly held on to "law" in their faith walk and teaching; but they overlooked the prophets – Amos 9:11-12 – who told them this was in God's plan. (Isaiah 2:2; 11:10*; 42:6; 49:6, 22.

[There are too many OT references to list here, but you get the idea – God's plan was for the redemption of ALL creation through the nation of Israel – the Jews of Jesus time did not get this – in spite of their own scriptures telling them over and over.] Acts 15:16-17

* Who is the "Root of Jesse" in Isaiah 11:10?

5. Vs. 20-21...Is this a compromise or a resolution? Discuss.

6. Vs.22-29...Was this a voted/majority decision (v25)? How does this compare with church decision making today? Are **we** doing it right? Is there a better way?

In light of Acts 15, discuss church conflict resolution in the wider church today. What can we do better?

Take time to check in with each other and – pray for one another. Pray for opportunity to share the gospel AND the boldness to hold your ground against opposition and persecution.