

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #14 -Jerusalem Council

Scripture Reading: Acts 15:1-5

Introduction:

1. Conflict is a part of life. It is something to be dealt with, not ignored.
2. Some times the church has to deal with inward conflict.
3. In this lesson we will observe how the first century church dealt with conflict from within...

I. CONFLICT -15:1-5

A. CIRCUMCISION

1. Some believed that circumcision was necessary for salvation
2. Paul and Barnabas however, greatly disagreed and taught against it
3. In order to resolve the matter, they are sent to Jerusalem

B. GOING TO JERUSALEM

1. On route they describe the conversion of the Gentiles which creates joy among the brethren.
2. At Jerusalem they are well received by the apostles and the elders
3. The Pharisees who were now believers, held on to part of the Old Law of Moses

II. COUNCIL -15:6-21

A. PETER'S ADDRESS -15:6-11

1. He discusses Cornelius and his conversion
2. God accepted them by giving them the same outpouring of the Spirit.
3. It is not just to enforce on them what the Jews were unable to bear!

B. PAUL AND BARNABAS -15:12

1. They were sent among the Gentiles and converted many to the Lord
2. They discussed all the many miracles God had performed on their behalf, thus showing God's approval for them.

C. JAMES -15:13-21

1. He quotes from Amos 9:11, 12 illustrating that the door open to the Gentiles was according to prophecy.
2. He defended the Gentiles against trouble borrowed from keeping the Law of Moses which was no longer in effect -Co 2:14; Mt 5:17
3. He only stated a few aspects that they should keep -see vs. 20

III. RESOLUTION -15:22-29

A. THE LETTER

1. All were pleased to send with Paul and Barnabas two choice men back to Antioch -vs. 22
2. The content of the letter:
 - a. Addressed the problem
 - b. They have sent choice men to report the council's decision on the matter.
 - c. This had approval from the Holy Spirit
 - d. It closes with some things to abstain from.

B. APPLICATION FOR US TODAY

1. During times of conflict, it is best to talk it out.
2. Remember that the word of God is our authority today.

Conclusion:

1. The church had problems, but they worked through them together
2. When the church works together today, there is nothing that cannot be accomplished!