

Transformation Card

This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.

Date: Jan 29, 2012

Sermon Audio

Full Msg. Title: **The Church Faces the Issue of Circumcision**

Short Ver. Title: **The Church Faces an Issue**

Series Title*: Acts

Text: Acts 15:19-35

Key Words: abstain, idols, apostles, elders, church, letter, rejoice, strengthened, encouraged

Message Outline

The Church Faces the Issue of Circumcision..., Part 4

- I. Peter's Contribution towards Resolution
- II. Paul and Barnabas' Contribution towards Resolution
- III. James' Contribution towards Resolution
 - A. His Agreement with Peter
 - B. His Scriptural Basis
 - C. His **Conclusion**
 1. "That we do not **trouble**... the Gentiles." (19)
 2. "But that we write to them... **abstain** from things contaminated by idols..." (20)
 3. The **Reason** for His Conclusion (21)
- IV. The Church in **Jerusalem's** Contribution towards Resolution (22-33)
- V. The Church in **Antioch's** Contribution towards Resolution (2, 30-35)

God's Word for Devotions

1. Acts 15:1-35

Talk About It with Your Friends and Family

1. State in your own words how James' ruling in verse 19 answers the question raised in verses 1 and 5.
2. What was the obligation James put upon the Gentile disciples in verse 20 and how does that obligate you as you 'work out your salvation' (Phil 2:12-13)?
3. In what way does verse 21 provide a reason for James' conclusion in verse 19 and 20?
4. How did the church in Jerusalem contribute towards resolving the issue, i.e., what resolution did they reach and what action did they take (22-30)?
5. How did the church in Antioch contribute towards resolving the issue, in particular what 3 things did they receive?
6. This passage records how the first century church resolved an issue they deemed very important. What was so important and how does their resolution inform your understanding both of what God has done in Christ and what you are obligated to as one who has been saved by God's grace?
7. How did they manage the issue they faced in a way that is exemplary for us to face the issues we face in the church?

Memory and Meditation Verse

"When they had read it they rejoiced because of its encouragement" Acts 15:31 (NASB).

Next Week: Focus on Acts 15:36-41