

# The Gospel Refined

Acts 15:1-35

PART FOUR

## Introduction

### The Jerusalem Council

John 1:17

John 5:45

Romans 5:20-21

Galatians 3:10-11

### Five stages of the Jerusalem Council:

- I. **The Dissension** (vv1-5);
- II. **The Debate** (vv6-12);
- III. **The Decision** (vv13-21);
- IV. **The Delegation** (vv22-29);
- V. **The Delivery** (vv30-35)

**v19**

“trouble” Gk word meaning, ‘to crowd in on someone’ (Lenski).

**v21**

James wisely chooses a *transitional compromise*.

Revelation is progressive. John 16:12

**The primary issue being addressed is *fellowship*, the preservation of unity, not enforcing morality.**

To the Jew, teaching the law of Moses to Gentiles was fulfilling God’s call on them to proselytize.

**The decision by James is an appeal from *love* to abstain from things that are appalling to Jews.**

**The issue in the Church today is the reverse of what they were dealing with at the Jerusalem Council.**

Then, new Gentile believers were exhorted not to engage in things that might offend the Jewish Christian.

Today, spiritually mature believers are exhorted not to engage in things that might offend new believers.

**Freedom in Christ does not mean absolute autonomy to live any way we want to.**

Galatians 5:13-14

1 Peter 2:16-17

James 1:25

***The Law of Christ is Love – Principles for Christian Living***

“the law of liberty.” James 2:12

Romans 13:8-10

The Greatest Commandment in the Law: To love for God and other people: Matthew 22:40

James 2:8

Galatians 6:2

1 Corinthians 9:21-23

John 15:12

John 13:34-35

**Love Supersedes Liberty.**

1 Corinthians 8:1

1 Corinthians 8:4

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

Romans 14:13-15

Romans 14:19-23

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” Galatians 5:6

**Living the Example of Christ in Love**

Romans 15:1-3

Herein lies the greatest example of love which is the fulfillment of the law.