



Unity in a Church on Mission
Acts 15
Aug. 18, 2019

Scripture Reading – Acts 15: 1-11

When a church is on mission for Christ, conflicts will surface. What steps do we see in the early church that we should follow that will produce unity?

Common areas of conflict in churches

1. Practical needs are unmet –Acts 6
2. Personal hurts or sin –Acts 15:38
3. Philosophical or Biblical issues -Acts 15:1, 5, 11

Steps that will lead toward unity

1. Listen to one another. (Acts 15:1-2, 4-6, 12)
2. Learn from God's Word. (Acts 15:15-17)
3. Look at the evidence of God's Work. (Acts 15:3, 8-9, 14)
4. Lean upon the Holy Spirit. (Acts 15:28)
5. Let the love of Christ rule. (Acts 15:20-21, 31-34)

Application:

1. Review the areas of conflict that you are facing right now. What steps do you need to take this week do seek unity?
2. Pray for SHC in the coming days to walk in unity as the church seeks the will of God.

Life Group Questions/ Discussion



Life Group Study Questions
Unity in a Church on Mission
Acts 15

Main Thought of the Study - What is the Biblical response to conflict in the local church and among followers of Christ? What can we learn from the early church?

Introduction Discussion - Share a time when there was a conflict in church. Without using names – was it over a hurt or misunderstanding or a Philosophical or Biblical issue? Was it resolved? Why or why not?

Reflections from the Message

1. Identify the source of the conflict in Acts 15. (Acts 15:1, 5) What modern day illustrations do we have of people/churches wanting to add something to being saved? Define the core truth of the gospel. (Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28)
2. The first step toward unity is to listen to one another. (Acts 15:2, 6, 12) What are the reasons why this step is difficult? Share practical ways to become better listeners.
3. Next, we need to bring our issues to the Word of God. What does the Bible say on the matter? (Acts 15:15-17) Beyond our opinions or feelings on a matter - What does the Word of God teach? Share a time when a certain Bible verse brought clarity or direction for your life.
4. What practical evidence was shared that proved that God was accepting Gentiles into the church? (Acts 15:3, 8, 9, 14) What did Jesus teach about seeing the good fruit in someone's life? (Matthew 7:16, 17, 20) Give an example of good fruit in a church or ministry that you are part of.
5. If a church wants unity it must heavily rely upon the Holy Spirit. (Acts 15:28; Ephesians 4:3) Describe the difference between a church that is walking in the Spirit and one that is relying on the flesh. (Galatians 5:16-23) What evidence of the love of Christ do we see in the Acts 15 conflict? (Acts 15:31-33) What happens in a church that is busy but fails to love one another? (I Corinthians 13:1-3)

Digging Deeper

Review the following passages and discover the power of God's Word to guide us in our decisions as a church. (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15-17; Psalm 119:11, 18, 97-105; Matthew 4:4; Col. 3:16)

Application:

1. Identify areas of "conflict" in your life right now. Which steps in this passage were most helpful? Which step can you take this week?
2. Begin to pray for the unity of the Spirit for our church. Pray that we will be good listeners to one another as well as listening to the Word of God.