

Resolving Church Disputes ***Acts 15***

Getting Started

- ❖ Share an example of church disputes you have observed and how they were handled. What was the outcome?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. With church disputes the stakes are high. (v.1-3)
2. When handled well, a church dispute can lead to greater unity and mission clarity. (v.4-21)

Takeaway Truth: Resolving church disputes with gospel-centered transparency unifies the church and clarifies her mission.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ What was the question that was forming in the minds of the Jewish leaders (vv. 1-5)? Why was this issue so important? What might be some comparable issues in today's church?
- ❖ Describe carefully the process of resolving this conflict (vv. 6-21). What stands out to you in this process and why?
- ❖ Where in this dispute and resolution do you see both an allegiance to the gospel and gospel humility? Why are both of these important?
- ❖ Why do you think the Gentile believers were given a list of four behaviors from which to abstain, even though they did not have to be circumcised or obey the law of Moses to be saved (vv. 28-29)?
- ❖ What can we learn about the resolution of a disagreement from the way the Jewish leaders worked toward resolution? After all the discussion in the council at Jerusalem about Gentiles not having to be circumcised, why do you think, in the next chapter, Paul circumcised Timothy before taking him along on the journey with Silas and himself?

Apply It!

- ❖ When you are involved in a dispute with someone else, are there applications from this larger church dispute that should apply to your smaller personal dispute?
- ❖ Would you describe yourself as struggling more with “older brother” attitudes or “younger brother” actions? How does gospel address this?
- ❖ Is there someone you are in conflict with even now with whom you need to approach with gospel humility in order to reconcile?

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Think About It!

We all are influenced by our backgrounds. Each of us has experienced some doctrinal or practical distortion because of past experience or environment. The challenge is to identify those points of error or misemphasis before we drift too far away from Christ. (Kent Hughes)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

March 27, 2022 | Fourth Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SONGS

WE CROWN YOU (ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME)

Words by Edward Perronet, 1779 / Music by Oliver Holden, 1793

Additional chorus by Paxson Jeancake, 2015

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate, fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the Fall.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

We crown you, we crown you Lord of all. (2x)

O that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

GOD SO LOVED

**Words and Music by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash,
Scott Cash and Andrew Bergthold, 2019**

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that
never runs dry. Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.
Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table;
He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

*For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only
Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in
freedom. For God so loved, God so loved the world.*

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down
at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.

WHAT HE'S DONE

**Words and Music by Anna Golden, Jacob Sooter, Kristian Stanfill, and
Tasha Cobbs Leonard, 2021**

See on the hill of Calvary my Savior bled for me,
my Jesus set me free.

Look at the wounds that give me life,
grace flowing from His side, no greater sacrifice.

*What He's done, what He's done.
All the glory and the honor to the Son.
My sins are forgiven; my future is Heaven.
I praise God for what He's done.*

Sing for the freedom He has won.
Even death is dead and done. His life has overcome.
Speak, say the Name above all names
over every broken place. He is risen from the grave.

Now on a throne of majesty,
the Father's will complete, He reigns in victory.
Sing hallelujah to the King,
He is worthy to receive all the worship we can bring.

FIND ME AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Words and Music Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, 2015

Lord, here I am. You have all of me. Take the world, You are all I need.

*Find me, find me at the feet of Jesus. Savior,
find me with my heart bowed down. Find me on my knees.
Find me close to Thee. Find me at the feet of Jesus.*

Lord, I belong to You, You have my heart.
My only hope is You and everything You are.

I can almost hear those angels singing, "Holy, holy."
I can almost touch the heavens in their glory, glory.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 32; Genesis 48:8-22; Romans 8:11-25; John 6:27-40
MONDAY | Ps. 80; Genesis 49:1-28; 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1; Mark 7:24-37
TUESDAY | Ps. 25; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 1 Cor. 11:2-34; Mark 8:1-10
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 27; Genesis 50:15-26; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Mark 8:11-26
THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Exodus 1:6-22; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Mark 8:27-9:1
FRIDAY | Ps. 22; Exodus 2:1-22; 1 Cor. 12:27-13:3; Mark 9:2-13
SATURDAY | Ps. 43; Exodus 2:23-3:15; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Mark 9:14-29

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Merciful God, we confess that our hearts are often full of deceit. You offer us counsel and instruction, but we do not listen to your word. You offer us wisdom and peace, but our stubbornness, pride, and short tempers keep us from true understanding. Like the prodigal son, we can run after things that do not satisfy; forgive our wayward hearts. Like the elder brother, we can be self-righteous and ungrateful; forgive our hard hearts. Restore us, O God; be our hiding place; preserve us from trouble; surround us with glad cries of deliverance. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.



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