

Life Together Group Questions
October 11, 2015
Acts 15:1-35

1. As these Jewish Believers came and made their case for the Law in the lives of Gentile believers what arguments might they have used? (vss. 1,5 see Lev. 18:4-5; Neh. 9:26-29; Matt. 5:17-20) Do you find yourself identifying with the Jews/Pharisees? Why?
2. Why were Paul and Barnabas so quick to contend with these Jews calling for the Law? (vs.2;13:38-39)
3. In verse 7 Peter recalls how God used him to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. What details are important to how God used Peter to understand what God is doing? (See 10:9-17, 44-48; 11:8-18)
4. What are the rest of the arguments, or the reasoning that Peter employs? (vss. 7-11)
5. What was the problem with the Law according to Peter? Do you think you could keep the OT Law? (vs. 10)
6. Read vs. 11 – Are there other passages that help us understand that our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone? (See Rom. 5:21-26; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit.3:5)
7. James brought weight to the conversation by quoting Amos 9:11-12 in vss.16-17. Are there other OT passages that point to God's plan to include the Gentiles in salvation? (see Gen 12:2-3; Ps. 87; Is. 11:10; Zech 2:10-1; Rom. 15:8-12)
8. In verses 20, 29 we get James' recommendations. How were these helpful?
 - Ex. 20:3-5; Rom. 1:21-23; 1 Jn. 5:21 – In relation to Idols?
 - 1 Cor. 6:15-20; Eph. 4:17-20; 1 Thes. 4:3-8 – In sexual immorality?
 - Lev. 7:26-27; Dt. 12:16,23; 1 Cor. 10:31-32 – In being sensitive to the conscience of another?
9. What is the importance of being anchored in the truth of being saved, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone? What are the dangers in not keeping that truth central?
10. When things are going well, have you ever been tempted to believe in your own goodness?
11. What did that look like? How does grace address that?
12. In failure have you ever believed you are beyond God's grace? What did that look like?
13. How does grace address our failure?
14. How does the truth of God's grace help you follow Jesus?
15. How does the truth of God's grace help you share Jesus?
16. What is a question about this passage that has not been addressed?

SERMON OUTLINE:

- Grace Challenged (vss.1-5)
- Grace Reexamined (vss.6-21)
- Grace Extended (vss.22-35)