

The Jerusalem Council (And Why It Matters)

Acts 15:1-35

Background and Context

The Jerusalem Council was the _____ and the _____ of all church councils because it answered the question **What is _____?**, or more specifically, **What must a person _____?**

The issue the Jerusalem Council dealt with was not ____ God wanted to save Gentiles, the issue was ____ Gentiles were to be saved. A secondary issue the council dealt with was how to maintain _____ between Jewish and Gentile believers.

The problem: Some Jewish believers (*Judaizers*) believed Gentile believers must first convert to Judaism before becoming a Christian. This ultimately undermines the gospel of grace by adding _____.

The Point of Dissension v. 1-6

The Judaizers did not fully understand _____. Paul addressed this same issue in his letter to the Galatians (See Gal. 1:6-10; 2:15-21; 3, 6).

Peter's Speech v. 7-11

Peter's point was simple: the Judaizers had no right to require of the Gentiles what _____ had not required of them. The matter was already divinely settled.

Paul and Barnabas' Speech v. 12

Paul and Barnabas _____ what Peter said by relating the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

James's Speech v. 13-21

James made it clear that everything happening in Acts was just as the _____ ______. With the major _____ resolved, James turns to practical matters of _____.

The Council's Proclamation to Gentile Believers v. 22-29

The letter's conclusions were almost word for word what _____. Paul provided the Romans with a series of principles regarding Christian Liberty in Romans 14:1-15:3.

Principle 1: Christian liberty must never be _____.

Principle 2: As those under grace, we are not to make _____ of others.

Principle 3: Christian liberty ought never to be used in such a way that you become a _____ another Christian.

Principle 4: Christian liberty requires this perspective: We ought not to _____...For even Christ did not please himself." (Rom. 15:1-3)

Antioch Receives the Letter v. 30-35

The reading of the letter evoked four responses from the assembled believers:

1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____, 4) _____.

Takeaways

The Jerusalem Council should prompt us to: 1) assess our understanding of _____, and 2) acknowledge the inseparable bond between _____ and _____.

There is only one law we're bound by today, and that's the _____.
(John 13:34-35)