

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Circumcising False Teaching"

Acts 15:1-12

Acts 15:1-12

[1] And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." [2] Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. [3] So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. [4] And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. [5] But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." [6] Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. [7] And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. [8] So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, [9] and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. [10] Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? [11] But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." [12] Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

Discussion Questions:

1. In vv.6-11:
 - What history lesson is Peter recounting?
 - How is what Peter is saying related to his vision in Acts 10:28?
 - What is the *yoke*?
2. How does Galatians 2:16 contradict these false teaching of being circumcised?
3. In vv.5 it mentions that "some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up",
 - Were they Christians? (Galatians 2:4)
 - What problems did they cause for the church? Does this still go on today?
4. This matter of circumcision caused dispute within the church.
 - What did you learn about the responsibilities of elders from these verses?
 - How did they resolve conflict?
 - In vv.12, how did the multitude respond to Peter?
5. What old customs or traditions did/do you try to hold on to as a new believer?
6. Some say they are Christians because they added Jesus Christ to their beliefs. However, true faith in Jesus is a submission not addition.
 - Discuss the difference between addition and submission.
 - Give an example of how this applies to your life?

