

A Church That SUBMITS

Acts 15:1-35

Read Acts 15:1-6

What issue rises as a struggle for the church?

Read Acts 15:7-11

What does Peter point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

Read Acts 15:12

What do Paul and Barnabas point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

Read Acts 15:13-21

What does James point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

How will focusing on the ability of God, the action of God, and the authority of God help us answer the difficult questions we face as the church today?

Read Luke 9:23

How will learning to deny ourselves teach us to honor the truth that God is able?

How does picking up our cross daily teach us to submit to God's action in our lives?

How does Christ's command to "follow me" teach us to submit to God's authority?

A Church That SUBMITS (With Notes)

Acts 15:1-35

Read Acts 15:1-6

What issue rises as a struggle for the church?

As the good news about grace is received openly and warmly by the Gentiles, it creates a backlash among Christians of Jewish heritage. A group of Christians arises from the party of the Pharisees who begin to insist that everyone who comes to Christ must come to Him through the Law of Moses and they demand that circumcision be a requirement for salvation.

Read Acts 15:7-11

What does Peter point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

Peter speaks to the crowd and points them to the surpassing *ability of God* to save those that come to Him through Christ. Part of the circumcision issue rises from a belief that the blood of Jesus is not sufficient to bring someone into a relationship with God. Human wisdom says that there must be more, and that “more” is the Law of Moses. Peter reminds both of their inability to save themselves and the complete sufficiency of God’s ability to save those that come to Him through Jesus.

Read Acts 15:12

What do Paul and Barnabas point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

Paul and Barnabas get up and tell the crowd about the way God moved among the Gentiles as they heard and received the message of salvation. Paul points to the *action of God*. God opened a door for the salvation of the Gentiles and Paul points the eyes of the Christians in Jerusalem to the marvelous working of God’s grace.

Read Acts 15:13-21

What does James point to as the answer to the question about the salvation of the Gentiles?

James stands before the people and points them to the *authority of God*. He looks into the written word of God and points the people to God’s plan and vision for all men. He calls the assembly to submit to God’s will and allow God’s vision to shape their vision.

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Personal reflection...

Read Luke 9:23

How will learning to deny ourselves teach us to honor the truth that God is able?

Personal reflection...

How does picking up our cross daily teach us to submit to God's action in our lives?

Personal reflection...

How does Christ's command to "follow me" teach us to submit to God's authority?

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