

Acts Chapter 15 – Grace frees us from the yoke of religion 09/07/2025 Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did some Jewish believers insist that Gentiles must follow the law of Moses to be saved? Why do you think Paul and Barnabas opposed this teaching so strongly?
- 2. Why is it dangerous to add requirements to the gospel of grace?
- 3. How might we recognize when an issue is an "essential issue" rather than just a "personal preference" issue?
- 4. Can you give examples in the New Testament when an Old Testament command is either annulled or modified or ratified?
- 5. What's the significance of Peter's statement in Acts 15:11: "We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they are"?
- 6. In light of the fact that Paul and Barnabas shared reports of what God was doing among Gentiles, what role do testimonies play in church decision-making today?
- 7. In Acts 15:19, James says, "In my judgment, we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God." What are ways today that churches can make it difficult for visitors or unbelievers to come to Christ?
- 8. Why do you think the four abstentions (food sacrificed to idols, blood, meat of strangled animals, sexual immorality) were chosen? How did these help promote unity between Jewish and Gentile believers?
- 9. Comment on the statement: "You do not need to come under the law of Moses but you do need to come under the law of love."
- 10. Why is compromise sometimes necessary in church life? What does this letter reveal about the early church's commitment to unity?
- 11. Six individuals are named who favored grace but no individuals are named who supported require obeying the Law. Why do you think this is?
- 12. Regarding the quote, "Disagreements can ultimately lead to deeper clarity and move the church forward," in what ways did the resolution to the problem in Acts 15 propel the mission of the church forward?