

There's A Place For Everyone (1) Who Is The Church For?

WHO IS THE CHURCH FOR?

Acts 15:1...

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are **circumcised**, according to the custom taught by Moses, **you cannot be saved.**"

Verse 2...

This brought **Paul** and **Barnabas** into **sharp dispute** and **debate** with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this **question**.

Do People Basically Have To Become **JEWISH...** Before They Become A **CHRISTIAN?**

Verse 4...

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they **reported everything God had done through them**.

Verse 5...

Then some of the **believers** who belonged to the party of the **Pharisees...**

"The **Gentiles MUST be circumcised** and **REQUIRED to keep the law of Moses.**"

Verse 7...

After much discussion, **Peter** got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago **God made a choice** among you that the **Gentiles** might hear from my lips the **message** of the **gospel** and **believe**."

Verse 8...

God, who knows the **heart**, showed that **he accepted them** by **giving the Holy Spirit** to them, just as he did to us.

Verses 9-10...

He did not **discriminate** between **us** and **them**, for **he purified their hearts** by **faith**. 10 Now then, **WHY** do **you** try to **test God** by putting on the necks of **disciples** a **yoke** that neither **we** nor our **ancestors** have been able to bear?

Verse 11...

NO! We **believe** it is through the **grace** of our **Lord Jesus** that **we are saved**, just as **they are.**"

What Would It Take...

For **“YOUR”** Brother... To **CONVINCE** You...
That He Was The **SON OF GOD?**

Verse 19...

*“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it
DIFFICULT for the **Gentiles** who are turning to God.*

*“The **PRIMARY MISSION...** of the **LOCAL CHURCH...** in the **FIRST-CENTURY...** and the **CENTURIES TO COME...** Should not make it
“DIFFICULT”... for **THOSE... WHO ARE TURNING TO GOD!**”*

*“Let’s do **EVERYTHING** we can **POSSIBLE... TO MAKE IT...**
“EASY”... FOR THOSE... WHO WANT TO TURN TO GOD!”*

Verse 20...

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. 21 For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Verses 30-31...

*So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. 31 The people read it and were **glad** for its **encouraging message**.*

Another Generation Later...

THE CHURCH... MADE IT DIFFICULT AGAIN!

*For some **REASON...***

*The **LOCAL CHURCH** always appears to **GRAVITATE TOWARDS...**
making **THE LOCAL CHURCH... FOR INSIDERS ONLY!***
