

CP - 9/3/23

Acts 15:1–18 - The Jerusalem Council, Part One

Sermon Outline

1. The Next Crisis for the Church (Acts 15:1)
 - *Crisis about the core of the gospel
 - *Crisis about the unity of the church
 - *Crisis about the mission of the church
2. The Initial Response to the Crisis (Acts 15:2–5)
 - *Recognition/Opposition to false teaching
 - *Debate over false teaching
 - *Involvement by the whole church and other churches

Application:

1. We must never alter or change the gospel. We cannot improve it. We must believe it and share it.
2. We must not impose on others what God does not impose. God saves and sanctifies people the same way.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Why are crises inevitable in the life of the church? What was the crisis the church faced in Acts 15? Why was it indeed a crisis? What was on the line?
2. What is a Judaizer, and what was their message? What were they doing at Antioch? Why do false teachers often get the ear of so many people? Why must we be aware of false teachers and false teaching? How do we prepare?
3. How did the church initially respond to the crisis? How does Luke show the important balance of church leadership and the congregation in verses 2–4?
4. What ditches are we prone to get into through an over-emphasis or under-emphasis? Discuss specific ways people have burdened or imposed on others certain things for salvation or sanctification that God does not impose. How do we respond as the church?
5. Discuss different ways we can help each other grow in grace, the gospel, and truth.