

Adding to and Subtracting from the Gospel

Acts 14:26-28

The effectiveness of the gospel was _____ .

Acts 15:1-5

The essence of the gospel was _____ .

Acts 15:6-21

The integrity of the gospel was _____ .

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. Titus 3:4-8

EXTERNAL

Am I adding to the gospel's requirements in a way that is reducing my fellowship with _____ ?

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

Am I reducing the gospel's implications in a way that inhibits me from _____ my fellow believers?

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 1 Corinthians 5:12

INTERNAL

Am I adding to the gospel's requirements in a way that is reducing my fellowship _____ ?

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

Am I reducing the gospel's implications in a way that inhibits me from _____ ?

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:1-2

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Acts 15:1-29. How did the church handle this major dispute between some Jewish believers and the Antiochene Christians (vv. 2,6, 12, 22-30)?
2. From verses 6-11, list the key reasons why Peter support the Antiochene position.
3. What evidence did Paul and Barnabas offer to defend their view that Gentiles could be saved without becoming Jews first (vv. 4, 12)?
4. James was by now a leader of the Jerusalem congregation and known for his conservative Jewish practice (Gal 2:11-12). What convinced James that Paul was right about the Gentiles and the Law (vv. 13-19)?
5. Why do you think it was so important for the church that Gentiles not be required to keep the Jewish Law (vv. 9-11, 19)?
6. According to the council, what is necessary for salvation? What isn't necessary?
7. Read Romans 14:1-4, 13-23. Is eating blood still wrong (such as in blood sausage, rare meat or strangled poultry)? Why or why not?
8. What are the most important lessons the Jerusalem council's decision can teach us that we can apply today?

FOR DEEPER STUDY: If keeping the Law was not necessary for salvation, why did even Paul agree that the Gentiles should obey the rules of verse 20? For further insight, see Romans 14:1-4, 13-23 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1.

HELPFUL Quotes

Other Christians, the more broad-minded Jewish believers and the Gentile converts, saw no need for these restrictions. They viewed the church not as a party within Judaism, but as a distinct group—separate from Judaism—that incorporated both believing Jews and believing Gentiles. This difference of viewpoint led to the meeting that Luke recorded in this chapter. He described it at length in order to explain the issues involved and to clarify their importance. Therefore not a few students of Acts believe that chapter 15 is the most crucial chapter in the entire book. It is both structurally and theologically central to Acts. - *Tom Constable*

Whenever you put people together, contention happens. Even in the church. Some might even say especially in the church. Poorly informed romantics like to talk about the glory days of the early church, as if the era of the apostles didn't have the same problems we face today ... but an honest portrait of church history is a study in black and blue. Some of those places we have idealized—places we visit at ancient sites like Antioch, Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica and Ephesus—were, in reality, hotbeds of controversy in their time. The question is not whether a church will have contention, but how a church will move to resolve internal conflict. - *Charles Swindoll*

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!