

SENT: Missional CONFLICT

Text: Acts 15:1-41

The PAINFUL REALITY of Gospel CONFLICT: Acts 15:1

- 1) **Some teachers insist on ADDITIONAL RITUAL and ETHICAL requirements for SALVATION – Gospel +:** Acts 15:5
- 2) **Some churches begin to MISUNDERSTAND and CHANGE the Gospel:** Galatians 1:6–7
- 3) **For years, Paul had been CONTENDING for the TRUE Gospel:** Galatians 2:4–5
- 4) **Paul EXPOSED the false teacher's MOTIVES:** Galatians 6:12
- 5) **Paul even openly CONFRONTED other APOSTLES when they were LED (and LEADING others) ASTRAY:** Galatians 2:11-13
- 6) **Paul IDENTIFIED the CORE GOSPEL ISSUE:** Galatians 2:14

DISCERNING between GOSPEL conflict and OTHER conflicts:

- 1) **NOT all conflict is GOSPEL conflict just because Christians are involved – we often fight because of SIN:** James 4:1–2a
- 2) **NOT all conflict is directly SINFUL – we may have STRATEGIC conflict:** Acts 15:36-39a
 - a) **It is possible for Christians to have LEGITIMATE conflicting PRIORITIES.** Individuals vs. Groups. Tactics. Stewardship. Etc.
 - b) **God mercifully often USES these painful conflicts to FURTHER His KINGDOM in both individuals and groups:** Acts 15:39b–41
 - i) Mark wrote the first Gospel (A.D. 53-55) and served BOTH Peter and Paul in Rome (A.D. 62-63) [1 Ptr 5:13; Col. 4:10]
 - ii) Paul later summoned Mark: 2 Timothy 4:11b

The HOPE of Gospel COMMUNITY: Acts 15:2

- 1) **God GIFTS the church with DISCERNING SHEPHERDS to LEAD conflict resolution:** Acts 15:6 See also: Ephesians 4:11-16
- 2) **God ENTRUSTS the CHURCH with earthly AUTHORITY (under the ULTIMATE authority of SCRIPTURE) to SETTLE doctrinal conflict and ADDRESS unrepented sin:** Matthew 18:17b, 18; Acts 15:22a. See also: Acts 15:22-23
- 3) **God CALLS the church to UNITE in TRUTH:** Acts 15:25. See also: Romans 15:5-6, Philippians 2:2-4; Psalm 133:1
- 4) **God EMPOWERS the church by the HOLY SPIRIT to RESOLVE conflict:** Acts 15:28

The POWER of Gospel TRUTH: Acts 15:7a

- 1) **God CHOOSES who HE wants to give saving FAITH to:** Acts 15:7b
See also: John 6:44, 15:16; Hebrews 12:2
- 2) **God VERIFIES his choice by giving the HOLY SPIRIT:** Acts 15:8
 - a) **God makes His work VISIBLE:** Acts 15:12. See also: v. 3-4
 - b) **God REGENERATES and SANCTIFIES by His Holy Spirit:** Gal. 3:3
- 3) **God SAVES EVERYONE in the SAME WAY:** Acts 15:9; Gal. 3:26–28
- 4) **The LAW (following RULES or RITUALS) CAN'T SAVE us:** Acts 15:10; Galatians 2:15–16; Galatians 6:15. See also: Gal. 2:21, 3:10, 5:2-4
- 5) **We're ALL SAVED by GRACE:** Acts 15:11, Gal. 3:13–14. See: 4:4-6

The FREEDOM, LOVE and JOY of Gospel RESOLUTION:

- 1) **We GET Gospel WISDOM from God's WORD:** Acts 15:13–15. See also: v. 16-18, Amos 9:11-12
- 2) **We FREE other people's CONSCIENCES (from our own personal CONVICTIONS):** Acts 15:19; Galatians 5:1. See also: Col. 2:20-23
- 3) **We AVOID overt sin:** Acts 15:20ab. See also v. 29
- 4) **We sacrificially SERVE in LOVE:** Acts 15:20ac-21. Gal. 5:13–14.
- 5) **We REJOICE in Gospel UNITY and ENCOURAGEMENT:** Acts 15:30–31. See also: 16:4-5

Gospel In Life Group Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?