

Message Outline

Paul: When Godly

Men Disagree

Acts 15



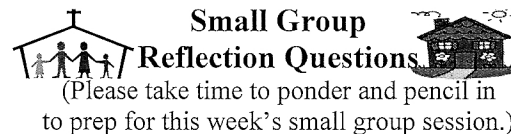
Intro: Last week, Paul's first missionary travels: work ethic, witness, way with people...

Read: Acts 15

- Important church meeting known as the Jerusalem Council (~50 AD)...
- v.1—A question of salvation...
 - Saved by man's works or God's work???
 - Do Christians have to become Jews first before following Jesus???
- v.1-5—Bigger issue than just Antioch... Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem for answers.
- v.6-7a—Key issue with all the key leaders present for the debate...
- v.7-11—Peter's experience (cf. Acts 10-11)...
- v.12-21—Applying Bible to debate (v.16-18)..
 - Lesson on Christians and civil discourse...
- v.22-35—Consensus reached (v.25) and steps to keep the peace in early church (v.29)...
- v.36—Return trip to see churches originally planted...
- v.37-41—Paul and Barnabas part ways?!?!

Lessons on Church Councils and Conflicts

- 1) _____
 - Early church on salvation and Jew-Gentile relations...
 - Jesus alone saves...but steps to keeping the peace.
- 2) _____
 - Only One is sinless...it's not Paul!
 - Paul's problems...
- 3) _____
 - Not seeing eye-to-eye and yet still moving forward...
 - Denominational "Paul/Barnabas" moment...
- 4) _____
 - Reconciliation with Mark (Col.4:10, Phile.1:23-24, 2Tim.4:9-11)...



Small Group

Reflection Questions

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

Read: Galatians 3-4

**From this passage, what do you notice about how Christians are to live?*

**What spoke to you this past Sunday (ie. what made you laugh, learn, look deeper at life etc.)?*

**In the early church, the big issue for believers seemed to be the matter of circumcision. What do you think is the big issue between believers today?*

**What do you think about the statement: "Just Jesus...nothing else"?*

**How would you describe the relationship between Paul and Barnabas at this point in our sermon series?*

**Are there any "tricks" or "tried and true" methods of working through a conflict that have helped you in arguments? Explain.*