



To Each One *“The Secret to Christian Unity”*

Acts 15:1-35

Does a Gentile first have to convert to Judaism in order to be saved?

OR... can he bypass becoming a Jew, remain a Gentile, and still be a Christian?



Acts 15:1-5



Acts 15:6-12



1. God **chose** Peter as an Apostle to the Gentiles through his vision in Acts 10 (v. 7).
1. God gave these Gentile converts the Holy Spirit **without** conversion to Judaism (v. 8).
1. The Mosaic Law is a burden that **not even Jews** have been able to bear (v. 10).
2. He re-affirms the gospel of salvation by grace alone **apart** from works of the law (v. 11).
3. Paul & Barnabus recount the **signs & wonders** God did through them among the Gentiles (v. 12).



3 Parts to the Law of Moses

1. Ceremonial laws
2. Civil laws
3. Moral laws



3 Current Uses of the Law

1. As a Mirror



Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.



3 Current Uses of the Law

1. As a Mirror
2. As a Civic Guide



3 Current Uses of the Law

1. As a Mirror
2. As a Civic Guide
3. As a Moral Guide



Acts 15:13-21



Galatians 3:28-29

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



Ephesians 3:4-6

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



3 Council Recommendations

1. Abstain from the things polluted by idols



3 Council Recommendations

1. Abstain from the things polluted by idols
2. Abstain from sexual immorality



2019 Pew Research Poll

57% of U.S. adults who identify as Christians

believe that sex in a committed relationship is sometimes or always acceptable.

49% think that casual sex is sometimes or always acceptable.



3 Council Recommendations

1. Abstain from the things polluted by idols
2. Abstain from sexual immorality
3. Abstain from what has been strangled, and from blood



Acts 15:21

For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.



Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



“[The Jerusalem Council] secured a double victory – a victory of truth in confirming the gospel of grace, and a victory of love in preserving the fellowship, by sensitive concessions to conscientious Jewish scruples.”

- John Stott



Romans 14:22

The faith [or conviction] that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.



“One day, “I said, ‘God, please help me to understand, if there a **key** to this whole Bible?’

And all I could hear, like a bell going off, was one word: **humility, humility, humility**.
(And I’m not a charismatic!)”



And then, it looked like I'd learned speed-reading. The whole Bible turned into one word: **HUMILITY.**

And I said, 'This is one of those steps I need to learn and understand. That is, the real place of learning the mysteries of God... is becoming nothing.'"

- K.P Yohannan, Gospel for Asia



“It is impossible for us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, while we cling to our own pre-conceptions.”

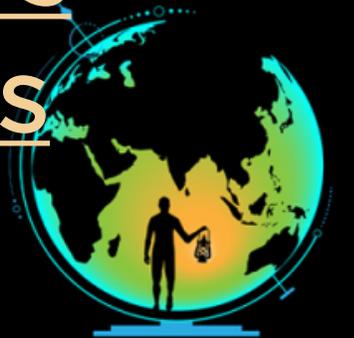
- A.W. Pink



1 Corinthians 8:1-2

Now concerning _____, we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.



In essentials, unity.

In non-essentials, liberty.

In all things, charity.

- *Rupert Meldenius*



Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



7 Unifying Things We All Share

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—
just as you were called to the one hope that
belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith,
one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

- Ephesians 4:4-6



1 Corinthians 10:14-17

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the

