

## **ACTS: The Jerusalem Council, Part 2**

*Acts 15:12-29*

### **Getting Along (v. 12-21)**

- After Paul & Barnabus recount God's work among the Gentiles, James\* looks to Scripture to confirm what has been reported (see Amos 9:11-12)
  - This work of God among the Gentiles may be new, but it should not be a surprise
    - It was part of God's plan all along
    - Making one people for Himself out of all people of the Earth
- However, James asks the Gentiles for some concessions to get along with their new Jewish brothers and sisters
  - Refraining from eating:
    - Food sacrificed to idols
    - Meat that was strangled
    - Blood
  - Abstaining from sexual immorality
    - Probably a reference to Lev. 18:6–18
  - These were ritual aspects of the Law, not primarily moral
    - Moral purity was assumed of all Christians
  - The purpose of the Apostles' decree was to allow for real fellowship between the Jews & Gentiles

### **The Letter (v. 22-29)**

- The Apostles & elders commission a letter to be sent to all the congregations that clarifies their teaching on salvation by grace alone
  - Along with the concessions to allow fellowship between the Jewish & Gentile believers

### **Freedom & Love**

- Jesus offers us salvation based on grace alone, which gives us freedom
- However, we are to use this freedom to serve one another
  - Even submitting to one another for the purpose of greater fellowship

### **So What?**

- How can we grow in our fellowship with one another?
- How do we serve one another in love?

**Meditation Verse:** Galatians 5:13