



Acts 15:1-6

A Serious Dispute Erupts

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Judaizers Come to Antioch

Acts 15:1 (NASB)

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

- Antioch had uncircumcised Gentile Christians in their fellowship
- In Acts 11:18 Gentiles were accepted as believers
- Jerusalem had sent Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 11:22-24)

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There Is a Serious Battle

Acts 15:2 (LEB)

And after there was no little strife and debate by Paul and Barnabas against them, they appointed Paul and Barnabas and some others from among them to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem concerning this issue.

- "Strife" is *stasis* and is translated "insurrection" in Luke 23:19, 25 and "riot" in Acts 19:40
- Galatians 2:3-5 speaks of false brethren who wanted to compel Titus to be circumcised

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There Is Joy at Conversions

Acts 15:3 (LEB)

So they were sent on their way by the church, and passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, telling in detail the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers.

- The desire to put these believers under bondage is ironic in the face of this great joy
- "Joy" is used 13 times in Luke/Acts in connection with Messianic salvation and God's mighty deeds

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A Serious Theological Controversy

Acts 15:4-5 (LEB)

And when they arrived in Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and reported all that God had done with them. But some of those who had believed from the party of the Pharisees stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to observe the law of Moses!"

- These wanted all Christians to obey Moses
- Luke 9:28-35 refutes the claim of the Judaizers

This Issue Must Be Resolved

Acts 15:6 (LEB)

Both the apostles and the elders assembled to deliberate concerning this matter.

- This was taken up in Jerusalem because the problem was exported from Jerusalem