

## Jesus + Nothing = Salvation

Acts 15:6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.” 12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 When they finished, James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. 15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: 16 “‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, 17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’ 18 that have been known for ages. 19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. 21 For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

### Last Week We Learned:

#### At the Meeting

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ met to \_\_\_\_\_ this issue (Apostles and Elders)
  2. There was “\_\_\_\_\_” before the leaders speak.
  3. Peter, the leader of the Apostles, spoke first making a \_\_\_\_\_ that no “AND” be added to salvation because of what God did in the life of \_\_\_\_\_ and his family.
  4. Paul and Barnabas shared about the \_\_\_\_\_ that God had worked among the \_\_\_\_\_ and that no “AND” was needed.
  5. James, the half-brother of Jesus and the leader of the church, uses the \_\_\_\_\_ to teach that no “AND” should be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts 15:15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written . . .

### Instead . . .

1. Note that there isn’t a \_\_\_\_\_!
  2. James then makes a “\_\_\_\_\_.” There shall be no “AND” added to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts 15:19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, . . .

### Instead . . .

Let’s do everything possible to keep our \_\_\_\_\_ and not intentionally \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

Acts 15: 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. 21 For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

The Issue of Offense	The Meaning
Food polluted by idols	
Sexual immorality	
Meat of strangled animals	
And from blood	

### Why This Decision? Because of Law!

Christians have \_\_\_\_\_!

John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Rom. 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

Although we are \_\_\_\_\_, we need make decisions based on how it will \_\_\_\_\_ others. “Love God and do what you want!”

### How Do We Apply?

1. Note that the church dealt with a tough issue \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and then communicated that decision to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts 15:27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.
2. Is there any way that you are enjoying your \_\_\_\_\_ but possibly \_\_\_\_\_ a fellow believer? (Romans 15:1-3)

New commandment; law of the king, perfect law of liberty; OT law built on fear; we don't serve because we fear but because we love

Gal. 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Rom. 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

*He ain't heavy, he's my brother*

*Love God and do what you want*

Gal. 5:13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Gal. 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Rom. 15:1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.