



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
 WORSHIP VIDEO To God be the glory
 PRAYER
 UPDATES Pastor Phill
 CHILDREN'S TALK..... Apphia and Hannah
 WORSHIP VIDEO..... Ancient of Days
 BIBLE READING Acts 15:1-31
 MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
 WORSHIP VIDEO..... Grace



The Church Defined ~5
Staying on track
Acts 15:1-31

The early church controversy in the first century:
_____ should be a part of the church and how
_____ do you have to be?

If we are not careful, the church will drift toward what is
_____ and _____ and _____.

'Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.'" Acts 15:1 NIV

'This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.' Acts 15:2 NIV

'When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.' Acts 15:4 NIV

'Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the Law of Moses.'" Acts 15:5 NIV

'The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 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. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.'" Acts 15:6-8 NIV

"He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 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? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:9-11 NIV

"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 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. For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath." Acts 15:19-22 NIV

'The people read it and they were glad for its encouraging message.' Acts 15:31 NIV

**1. We've got to avoid the drift toward _____
and away from _____.**

**2. We've got to avoid the drift toward _____
and away from _____.**

**3. We've got to avoid the drift toward _____
rather than _____.**

1. Be _____.

2. Err on the side of _____.

3. Remain _____.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. From your perspective, who is the church for?
2. Have you had any bad experiences with a church that made you want to say, "I don't want anything to do with them anymore"?
3. In your opinion, is it too easy or too hard to become a Christian?
4. Read Acts 15. The controversy for the Church at that time was over circumcision and dietary laws. What are contemporary sources of controversy for 'entry' in the Church?
5. How can you guard against the tendency to drift toward law and away from grace?
6. We have to work hard not to be a church where grace and truth conflict but coexist. Discuss some practical ways we can go about this.
7. Jesus was full of both grace and truth. How might we exhibit grace and truth in our lives as we engage with both unbelievers and Christians?
8. How can we be open-handed in attempts to advance the message of Jesus Christ?

Watch us on



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