

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 15:19-35

Media Reference Number SM-197

TITLE:

“GOOD CHURCH BUSINESS”

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The Church Had Come to a very interesting crossroad was the church to operate under a judaistic, Legalistic, Old testament relationship with God... or was it the free, liberating grace of God that was being preached by Paul.

The Dispute;

1.) **Strict Religion hinders a Loving Relationship** vv. 1-5

Last Week We Learned that Salvation was accomplished for the Jew the same way it was for the gentile...

The Defense;

2.) **Peter Reminds Them of the Past** vv. 6-11

3.) **Paul Reports on the Present** vv. 12

Thank God for His "Present Work"

4.) **James Relates it all to the Future** vv. 13-18

What Was the Church to do?

“GOOD CHURCH BUSINESS”
what it is and how it works

Growth Causes these Problems

growth is how God rewards faithfulness

Verse 1

And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren,
"Unless you are circumcised according to the law of Moses, you cannot be saved."

These Were Well Meaning, Born Again Jews
Who Fought for the Old Testament Truths.

Coming to an Understanding

Peter, the Big Kahuna Himself;

Acts 15:11

**"that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
we shall be saved in the same manner as they."**

This is Christian Doctrine Friend!

salvation comes no other way

Grace GRK 5485 *charis* (*khar'-ece*);

divine influence upon the heart, favor, to find pleasure in the eyes of another -
unearned **without merit**

The Church Came to a Decision that was Two-fold

#1. The Decision regarding "*Salvation*" vv. 18-21

James Makes a Sweeping Statement

Acts 15:18

"Known to God from eternity are all His works. :19 "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

Our Omniscient God

Psalm 94:11

The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.

Psalm 103:14

For He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

God Knew about Adam's Fall in Advance.

And chose to create Adam anyway...

It was because of Love & Relationship!!!

Ephesians 2:4-5

Because God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, :5 even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved :6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, :7 **that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

**You Parents, Knowing What You Know Now
about your child... would you have brought them into the world**

HOME DEPOT

"O' I see you found him...how nice"

He says "It is my Judgement"

James exercised the Gift of the Holy Spirit known as Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:8

for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the

"those who are TURNING to God"

to change the path you're headed on

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

When God's in Charge of the Church

It's a Theocracy

When Man's in Charge of the Church

It's an Atrocity

but look ahead at verse 28

God's in control where He's allowed to be

We are in the midst of a wonderful opportunity &
Daily I'm reminding God - you're in control!!!

Verse 20-

"but that we write to them to (#1 abstain from things polluted by idols,) (#2 from sexual immorality,) (#3 from things strangled,) and (#4 from blood).

#2. The Decision regarding "Conduct" vv. 22-35 (29)

All Doctrine Leads to Duty

Two are Commands & Two are Concessions

Indirect Sin (a sin against conscious)
the great twinkie debate

Now, Those who are Christians, This is how we are to live

Verse 29

to use condoms
it is possible you know to abstain...
the problem is... it takes self-respect & love for God

that you abstain from **#1 things offered to idols, (#2 from blood), (#3 from things strangled,)** and from **(#4 sexual immorality)**. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well (live right). Farewell.

The Two Commands

----- required -----

Direct Sins (a revealed command)

#2.) Abstain from Sexual Activity outside of marriage

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

1 Peter 1:15

as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (infused holiness)

In any culture, in any country sexual immorality is a direct violation of God's will

- fornication (any type of sexual relationship)
- adultery (any type of sexual relationship with a married person)
- Homosexuality (any type of sexual relationship with the same gender)

What does it mean to Live Right in a Wrong World

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators (**Christians are not**), nor idolaters, (**Christians are not**) nor adulterers, (**Christians are not**) nor homosexuals, (**Christians are not**) nor sodomites, (**Christians are not**):10 nor thieves, (**Christians are not**) nor covetous, (**Christians are not**) nor drunkards, (**Christians are not**) nor revilers, (**Christians are not**) nor extortioners (**Christians are not**) will inherit the kingdom of God.

The Two Concessions

----- requested -----

In-Direct Sin

#1.) Abstain from things polluted by Idols, defiling food by sacrifice

Idols are Nothing

1 Corinthians 10:27

If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you **without raising questions of conscience.**

1 Corinthians 8:8

But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Jack, Can I Drink a Beer/Wine

The Answer is Yes and No.

You cannot get fuzzy (command) & you don't want to stumble anyone (concession)

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; :20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; :21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; :22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

In Moscow Russia

Kahha's House and the toasts

Are You willing to go without so that someone might come to know Jesus?

The best meat was temple meat

Zeus Burgers

Jupiter Dogs

#3 Eating blood (Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10 can't eat blood because it is sacred and it is an issue of health)

drinking blood is bad for you physically

strangled meat

Respect for Blood

Jehovah's witness violate this Command by not allowing Transfusions

Idols are Nothing

1 Corinthians 8:4

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

1 Corinthians 8:8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. 1 Cor 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak *in the faith*

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. Romans 14:5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. Romans 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. (NKJ)

The Beauty of it all is... The legalistic Jews-Christians gave up their crusade to cut
The Gentile-Christians gave up their need to glut

They came to agreement, this is maturity!!!

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

We are to never compromise,
but we are to make concessions (submissions)

The Council states that these things are "Necessary Things", important things, so what are they and do they apply to us today?

the requests are certainly wise for all of us wither for direct or indirect sin

- sexual immorality 'direct' Christian or non-Christian
- polluted by idols 'in-direct' not wanting to stumble
- strangled 'indirect'
- blood indirect

specific in rations towards a jew or jewish christian

those things were stumbling to the newly converted Jew

But what about us today?

Verse 22

They Became "One Mind"

Verse 23

brethren

adephos (ad-el-fos')

to be from the same womb - a brother (womb mates) to have been born of the Spirit

Verse 24

They Gentiles were Hurt - it brought peace and acceptance

Verse 25-26

They encouraged Paul & Barnabas

Verse 26

Verse 27

Verse 28

It was pleasing to the Holy Spirit

they agreed to disagree in love (concessions)

Verse 29

The Council states that these things are "Necessary Things" important things so what are they and do they apply to us today

That Others might Come to Jesus

Romans 14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. (NKJ)

1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God

Jude 1:21

keep yourselves in the love of God,

to stay unmarried (from the world)

how do you stay unmarried from the world?

you don't flirt with it

you don't date it

you don't become friends with it

you don't become engaged to it

(alot of Christians are engaged to the world, you talk like the world, you act like the world, you think like the world...

John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

James 4:4

know ye not that friendship with the world is warfare with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The World says make love not war is O.K.

The World says divorce is O.K.

The World says pornography is O.K.

The World says sex before marriage is O.K.

The World says drunkenness is O.K.

The World says "I'm O.K you're O.K."

But God says O.O.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

THOUGHTS

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ compels us,

compels Love says please take all of me!

(o' honey I love you so much..... if it doesn't rain Tuesday night I'll take you out)

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. :14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me `Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?

Matthew 7:16 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. :20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them. :21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

THE WILL OF THE FATHER IS THAT YOU LOVE THE SON

James 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.

**you are not saved by what you do,
but because you are saved you will do, do !!!**

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (living faith produces a fruitful life, the fruit is the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us)

The Fruit tells me what 'kind' of tree produced it

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

**A real, heaven bound, Christian will abide, will
produce fruit**

**will do the will of the father, because the Holy Spirit
dwells within and is in control**

How then Shall we live

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

it means now you put away

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; (everything)

#3. The Results of a Wise "Decision" *vv. 30-35*

THE RESULTS OF "GOOD CHURCH BUSNIESS"

- It Seemed Good to the Holy Spirit and to us.
- There was Unity (a unanimous vote)
- It gave birth to direction and vision (a precedence, an open door to continue)
(GOOD CHURCH BUSINESS HAPPENS BEFORE THE MEETING EVER FORMS)

#1 THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE ARE RIGHT BEFORE GOD

once together

#2 PRAYER IS MADE

#3 THE BIBLE IS THE STANDARD

#4 HOW DOES THE RESULT OF MEETING GLORIFY JESUS

How Should We be Living?

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and

envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. (NKJ)

rejoiced, encouragement

exhorted with many, lengthy words and strengthened

teaching (the saved) and preaching (to the unsaved)

The Result of this Apparent Problem

- It gave Opportunity for the Lord to Work *vv. 22*
- It Prevented a split in the church *vv.1*
- It Fostered Unity *vv. 22&30*
- It Provided a witness to the lost *vv.21*
- It brought encouragement & Joy *vv.31*
- It strengthened the church *vv. 32-35*
- The Holy Spirit was Pleased *vv.28*

This is the way Church Problems are to be handled

The Lack of Concern for the Lord

1 Corinthians 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

James 3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. :9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. :10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. :11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ((NKJ)

Threatening situations are opportunities to grow from

Acts 15:18

"Known to God from eternity are all His works.