

Beyond Religion

Converting Faith Into Religion

Acts 15.1, 6-11. 19

Don't require more of a person to follow Jesus than Jesus.

Problem

15.1 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."

They were converting Followers of Jesus into followers of Judaism

Relationship was becoming Religion

Solution

6 The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.

7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; 9 and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

We are all saved the same way

Grace not works saves us

Principle

19 NIV "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

An Authentic Relationship with Jesus is always in agreement with the Authority of God's Revelation

After salvation your life looks like you follow Jesus

To follow Jesus is to trust him with your life by turning from your sin and believing and confessing that he is Lord.