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The Clash

Acts 15:1-2a

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers:

Acts 15:1a (NLT)

“Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:1b (NLT)

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Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently.

Acts 15:2a (NLT)

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The Committees

Acts 15:2b-5

Finally, the church decided to send
Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem,

Acts 15:2b (NLT)

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Accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:2c (NLT)

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The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers.

Acts 15:3a (NLT)

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They told them—much to everyone's joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

Acts 15:3b (NLT)

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When they arrived in Jerusalem,
Barnabas and Paul were welcomed
by the whole church, including the
apostles and elders.

Acts 15:4a (NLT)

They reported everything God had
done through them.

Acts 15:4b (NLT)

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But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted,

Acts 15:5a (NLT)

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“The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

Acts 15:5b (NLT)

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The Conference

Acts 15:6-19

So the apostles and elders met
together to resolve this issue.

Acts 15:6 (NLT)

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At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows:
“Brothers, you all know that God chose me

Acts 15:7a (NLT)

From among you some time ago to
preach to the Gentiles so that they
could hear the Good News and
believe.

Acts 15:7b (NLT)

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God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us.

Acts 15:8 (NLT)

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He made no distinction between us
and them, for he cleansed their
hearts through faith.

Acts 15:9 (NLT)

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So why are you now challenging
God by burdening the Gentile
believers with a yoke that neither
we nor our ancestors were able to
bear?

Acts 15:10 (NLT)

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We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 15:11 (NLT)

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Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Acts 15:12 (NLT)

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When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me.

Acts 15:13 (NLT)

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Peter has told you about the time
God first visited the Gentiles to take
from them a people for himself.

Acts 15:14 (NLT)

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And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

Acts 15:15 (NLT)

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‘Afterward I will return and restore
the fallen house of David. I will
rebuild its ruins and restore it,

Acts 15:16 (NLT)

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So that the rest of humanity might
seek the Lord, including the Gentiles
—all those I have called to be mine.
The Lord has spoken—

Acts 15:17 (NLT)

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He who made these things known so long ago.'

Acts 15:18 (NLT)

acts
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“And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Acts 15:19 (NLT)

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The Compromise

Acts 15:19-21

“And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Acts 15:19 (NLT)

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Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality,

Acts 15:20a (NLT)

From eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood.

Acts 15:20b (NLT)

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For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”

Acts 15:21 (NLT)

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The Correspondence

Acts 15:22-35

Then the apostles and elders
together with the whole church in
Jerusalem chose delegates, and they
sent them to Antioch of Syria with

Acts 15:22a (NLT)

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Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders—Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas.

Acts 15:22b (NLT)

This is the letter they took with them: “This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem.

Acts 15:23a (NLT)

It is written to the Gentile believers
in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia.
Greetings!

Acts 15:23b (NLT)

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“We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them!

Acts 15:24 (NLT)

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So we decided, having come to
complete agreement, to send you
official representatives, along with
our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

Acts 15:25 (NLT)

Who have risked their lives for the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:26 (NLT)

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We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question.

Acts 15:27 (NLT)

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“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements:

Acts 15:28 (NLT)

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You must abstain from eating food
offered to idols, from consuming
blood or the meat of strangled
animals,

Acts 15:29a (NLT)

And from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell.”

Acts 15:29b (NLT)

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The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter.

Acts 15:30 (NLT)

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And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message.

Acts 15:31 (NLT)

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Then Judas and Silas, both being prophets, spoke at length to the believers, encouraging and strengthening their faith.

Acts 15:32 (NLT)

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They stayed for a while, and then the believers sent them back to the church in Jerusalem with a blessing of peace.

Acts 15:33 (NLT)

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But Silas decided to stay there.

Acts 15:34 (NLT)

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Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord there.

Acts 15:35 (NLT)

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“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements:

Acts 15:28 (NLT)

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