

## **Abstinence from Evil - Acts 15B**

**Summarized situation at the first Church Council.**

**Acts 15:6-21** And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. 7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. 12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. 13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. 19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: 20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. 21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

**Acts 15:1** And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

**Acts 15:6-8** And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. 7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, & said unto them, Men & brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the

word of the gospel, and believe. 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts,  
bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;  
Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit  
within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give  
them an heart of flesh:

1 Kings 18:37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that  
thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.

Acts 15:9 & put no difference between us & them, purifying their hearts by  
faith. 10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck  
of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt  
the Lord thy God.

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath  
made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Acts 15:11-16 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus  
Christ we shall be saved, even as they. 12 Then all the multitude kept  
silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what  
miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. 13  
And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and  
brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first  
did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And  
to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I  
will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen  
down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.  
And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ  
the righteous:

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed  
into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

Acts 15:17-19 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all  
the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth  
all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning  
of the world. 19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them,  
which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

Titus 2:2-5 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in  
charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in  
behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much  
wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women  
to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 *To be*

discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

**Acts 15:20** But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

**Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Explain implications of eating the forbidden fruit.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Abstain from the pollutions of idols - the occult.

**Exodus 20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

**1 Corinthians 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Abstain from fornication - sexual immorality.

Leviticus 18 & 20 has a list of sexual sins.

Abstain from eating blood. Some miss-use this to not take blood transfusions & not seek life saving medical treatment. Physician Luke.

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14** Study later.

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Acts 15:29** That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

**Strong's #567** apecomai apechomai *ap-ekh'-om-ahee* AV-abstain 6;

1) to hold one's self off, refrain, abstain

**1 Thessalonians 5:22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

**1 Corinthians 8:13** Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8** Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. **2** For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: **4** That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; **5** Not in the lust of

**concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. 8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.**

**More Service Notes:**

- 1 Timothy 4:1-5** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **3** Forbidding to marry, and commanding to **abstain** from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **4** For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.
- 1 Peter 2:11-12** Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain** from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; **12** Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

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