

# Radical Hospitality and Culture

Acts 15:1-21

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “**Unless you are circumcised** according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**” - Acts 15:1

And after Paul and Barnabas had  
**no small dissension and debate**  
with them, Paul and Barnabas and  
some of the others were appointed  
to go up to Jerusalem to the  
apostles and the elders about this  
question. - Acts 15:2

**How is a  
person saved?  
Is it by works  
or faith alone?**

But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to **circumcise them** and to order them to **keep the law of Moses.**” - Acts 15:5

# GRACE

Undeserved Kindness

Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. - Acts 15:7b-9

Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? - Acts 15:10





But we believe that we will be saved through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

- Acts 15:11

And all the assembly **fell silent**,  
and they listened to Barnabas  
and Paul as they related what  
signs and wonders God had  
done through them among the  
Gentiles. - Acts 15:12

After they finished speaking,  
James replied, “Brothers, listen  
to me. Simeon has related how  
God first visited the Gentiles, to  
take from them a people for his  
name. - Acts 15:13-14

# Discerning God's Will

**Personal Encounter**

**Other Witnesses**

**Word of God**

And with this the **words of the prophets** agree, just as it is written, 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old.'

- Acts 15:15-18

Therefore my judgment is that  
we should not trouble those of  
the Gentiles who turn to God,  
- Acts 15:19

but should write to them to  
abstain from the things polluted  
by idols, and from sexual  
immorality, and from what has  
been strangled, and from blood.

- Acts 15:20



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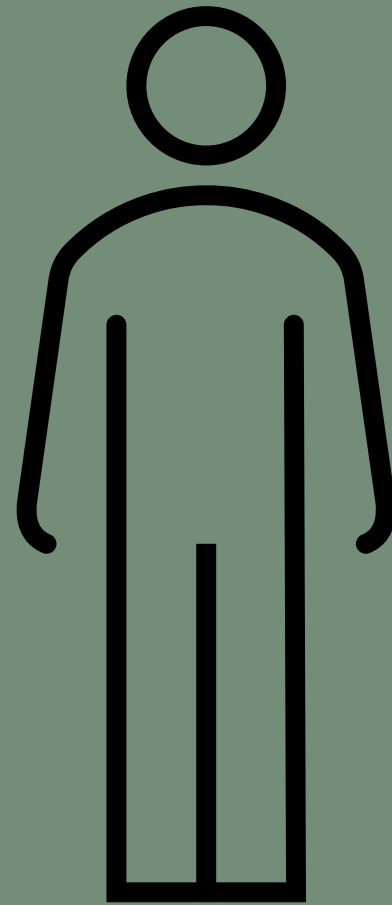
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**Jew**



**Gentile**

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When it comes to salvation and the core Gospel message, we cannot compromise.

When it comes to things not essential to the faith, we can show grace.

Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and **circumcised him** because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. — Acts 16:3

# Adiaphora

Things not essential to the faith

When it comes to salvation and the core Gospel message, we cannot compromise.

When it comes to things not essential to the faith (adiaphora), we can be show grace and be led by the law of love.

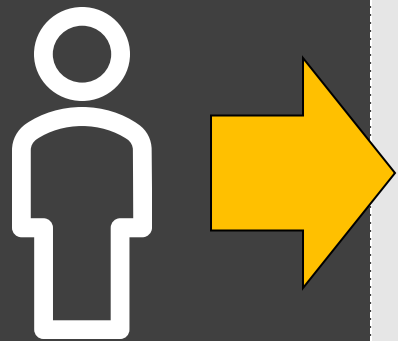


In essentials, **unity**.  
In non-essentials, **liberty**.  
In all things, **love**.

- St. Augustine

# Radical Hospitality

Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. – Henri Nouwen



Space