

Message Notes | To the Ends of the Earth

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Acts 15:1-21

- what does unity require?
- they must be like us - **vs. 1-5**

**#1 Resist traditions that create _____
_____ to following Jesus.**

- a yoke nobody could bear - **vs. 6-11**

**#2 Every "_____" and every "_____" is saved
through the grace of Jesus.**

- let's not make it difficult - **vs. 12-21**
- dear Gentile believers... - **vs. 23-29**

#3 Unity requires that we _____ so that we can _____.

- the power of unity is in Jesus' sacrifice
- your preferences and your traditions

#4 The beauty of unity is _____ our _____.

Group Questions | To the Ends of the Earth

Part 7: Terms and Conditions

Acts 15:1-21

1. What was a tradition your family observed growing up that you did not particularly care for? Share what it was and why it was a burden.
2. **Read Acts 15:1-5.** As best you can, describe the tension being felt by the following people or groups of people in this section.
The Jews
Paul and Barnabas
The Gentiles
3. What are some signs that a tradition is causing unnecessary resistance to people who are trying to seek or follow Jesus?
4. **Read Acts 15:6-11.** What is an important thing to remember when you begin to have an "us vs. them" mentality?
5. While we are willing to compromise our preferences, we will never compromise God's truth which ultimately sets people free. What are some unpopular truths that might be tempting to compromise on?
6. Give some examples of ways you might need to compromise your preferences in order to demonstrate love and acceptance toward other followers of Jesus. Or, if applicable, what are some traditions you have sacrificed for the good of others?
7. What would it look like in your life this week to compromise or sacrifice your personal preferences for the sake of others?

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- what does unity require?
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#1 Resist traditions that create unnecessary resistance to following Jesus.

- a yoke nobody could bear - **vs. 6-11**

#2 Every “us” and every “them” is saved through the grace of Jesus.

- let’s not make it difficult - **vs. 12-21**
- dear Gentile believers... - **vs. 23-29**

#3 Unity requires that we learn so that we can love.

- the power of unity is in Jesus’ sacrifice
- your preferences and your traditions

#4 The beauty of unity is worth our sacrifice.

Bible Reading for Today

Acts 15:1-21

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. ³ The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. ¹⁹ “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”