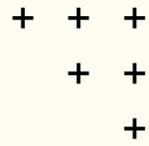


# Acts.

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.**”<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.

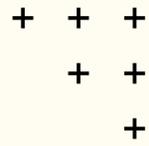
ACTS 15:1-4 NIV



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.”

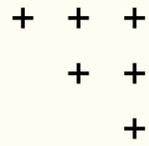
<sup>6</sup>The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

**ACTS 15:5-6 NIV**



“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.<sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.<sup>10</sup> 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?<sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

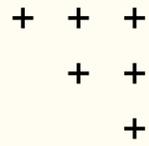
**ACTS 15:8-11 NIV**



“The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

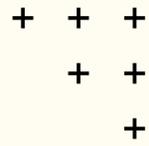
<sup>16</sup> ‘After this I will return  
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.  
Its ruins I will rebuild,  
and I will restore it,  
<sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,  
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,  
says the Lord, who does these things’—  
<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.’”

**ACTS 15:15-18 NIV**



“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

**ACTS 15:19-21 NIV**



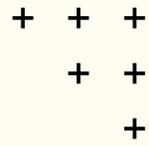
“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

**ACTS 15:19 NIV**

“Don’t make it hard for black neighbors to find God. Don’t make it hard for Democrats. Don’t make it hard for Republicans. Don’t make it hard for white seekers, brown seekers, or Asian seekers. Don’t make it hard for police officers or public-school teachers.”

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

**ACTS 15:19 NIV**

This decision set the precedent for the gospel transcending cultural forms.

What passions, preferences, and practices might I need to lay down in order to help others come to God?