

Avoiding Additives

“Living Large”, part 20, Insights from Acts 15:1 - 16:5
Pastor Bob Johnson, January 21st, 2024

The Back Story:

(Acts 14:24-28, Acts 15:1-2)
(Galatians 1:6-7; 2:11-13; 3:2; 3:8-9; 5:1-3)

The Great Debate:

(Acts 15:3-35)

What can we learn about the O.T.?

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- let's us see God's **P** _____
(Luke 24:27)

- doesn't let us **P** _____
(Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 3:24-25)

What can we learn about conflicts?

(Acts 15:37-41; 16:1-5)

- Look beyond my **P** _____ & **P** _____

- Live a life of **S** _____ & **S** _____
(Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 5:1-2, Mark 10:45)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our first week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

As Before reading Acts 15, last Sunday, Bob shared some of the "back story" that led up to the "discussion" at Jerusalem.

Speaking of a "back story" what is one part of your back story?

We all are familiar with disagreements and conflict.

What are some helpful reminders that would be helpful to remember the next time we find ourselves facing a relational conflict?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From Acts 15 and the first part of Acts 16, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, Paul is concerned that these new followers in Jesus would experience less freedom if they try to get right with God by their own effort.

How do the following verses expand on what freedom in Christ means and the responsibility that comes with it?

1 Corinthians 9:19-21, 1 Peter 2:13-17, John 8:31-36
Galatians 5:1, Galatians 5:13-15, Romans 6:15-23

Which of the above verses is most helpful for you when it comes to experiencing freedom in Christ more consistently and being gracious with others?

2. Sometimes our preferences, or even what we consider to be our rights, can be at odds with God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in building up the church and our fellowship with other Jesus followers.

How do the following passages (related to a variety of relationships we may or may not have) help us understand how to serve and build others up?

Ephesians 5:28-33

Ephesians 6:4

1 Corinthians 8:9

Romans 7:6

Romans 8:1-4

Romans 14:13

3. We are called to live out our lives being filled and fueled by the Holy Spirit, yet sometimes it is hard to know just what that really means or how that should influence us to act in a certain way.

Let's read Philippians 2:1-8 and share some of the actions and attitudes that speak to the Holy Spirit working in and through our lives.

From this passage, what is an application you can put into practice in the next few days?

What will you need to sacrifice in order to put this action into practice?

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?

How can we as a group remember what we are praying about?

Let's look forward to sharing with each other in the weeks ahead how God is growing us and answering our prayers in His time.