

Lesson 13

November 15, 2020 • Acts 15:1–35

1. When certain men came down from Judea to Antioch, what did they teach that caused Paul and Barnabas to dispute with them?
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do both on their way to Jerusalem to settle this question and also when they arrived in Jerusalem? What was the reaction among the brethren?
3. Who in particular were apparently major proponents of the teaching in question? What two things did they insist upon?
4. Summarize Peter's argument. What is this yoke that Peter refers to?

5. What did Paul and Barnabas report to the brethren assembled at this meeting? How is their report relevant to the question at hand?

6. Summarize James's argument.

7. What four things did James conclude that the Gentiles should abstain from?

8. **Thought Question** Why (only) the four items above? Furthermore, how did the fact that, “Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city,” help James arrive at the conclusion that these four prohibitions were sufficient?

9. According to the letter, had the apostles or the elders in Jerusalem commanded the teachers at the first of this chapter to teach what they had been teaching?

10. Why did Judas/Barsabas and Silas accompany Barnabas and Paul to deliver the apostles and elders' letter?

11. According to the letter, with whom were apostles and elders in agreement in their instructions to the Gentiles?

12. How did the church in Antioch receive the letter?

13. **Thought Question** In what ways did Peter, Barnabas, Paul, and James use direct command or statement, approved example, and necessary inference in arriving at their conclusions?
14. **Thought Question** Does this account in Acts 15 set the precedent for and authorize things like church synods or conventions that codify doctrine for all the churches within in a given region/country or that bear a certain name? Why or why not?